



Getting down to monkey business

Cartoonist Frank Cho talks about the future of comics, his newspaper frustrations and—of course—his undying love for monkeys

TYSON DURST
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Frank “Monkey Boy” Cho has a soft spot for primates. The self-taught artist and writer has been drawing monkeys—along with all other kinds of animals—in his popular comic strip *Liberty Meadows* for years, and has garnered numerous awards for his efforts.

But while comic books are experiencing newfound growth and exposure, the newspaper comic strip isn’t so fortunate these days.

“They’re dying a slow death,” Cho says. “People aren’t reading newspapers in the same numbers that they used to. They’re turning to other sources for news like the Internet.”

Liberty Meadows got its start as a syndicated comic strip in mainstream newspapers. After a few years, Cho decided to take his strip into the comic-book market exclusively, currently publishing at Image Comics. One of the reasons for that move was due to frustration in dealing with editorial attitudes and interference at various newspapers. A long list of strips that were censored in some form can be found at Cho’s website, www.libertymeadows.com.

“[Newspaper editors] tend to be snobs that treat comics as juvenile fare where you’re being told to dumb something down so a five-year old can understand it,” Cho explains. “They have to realize that comics should be treated just like any other material that they put in their papers. It’s kind of odd because comics used to boost circulation and were featured more prominently.”

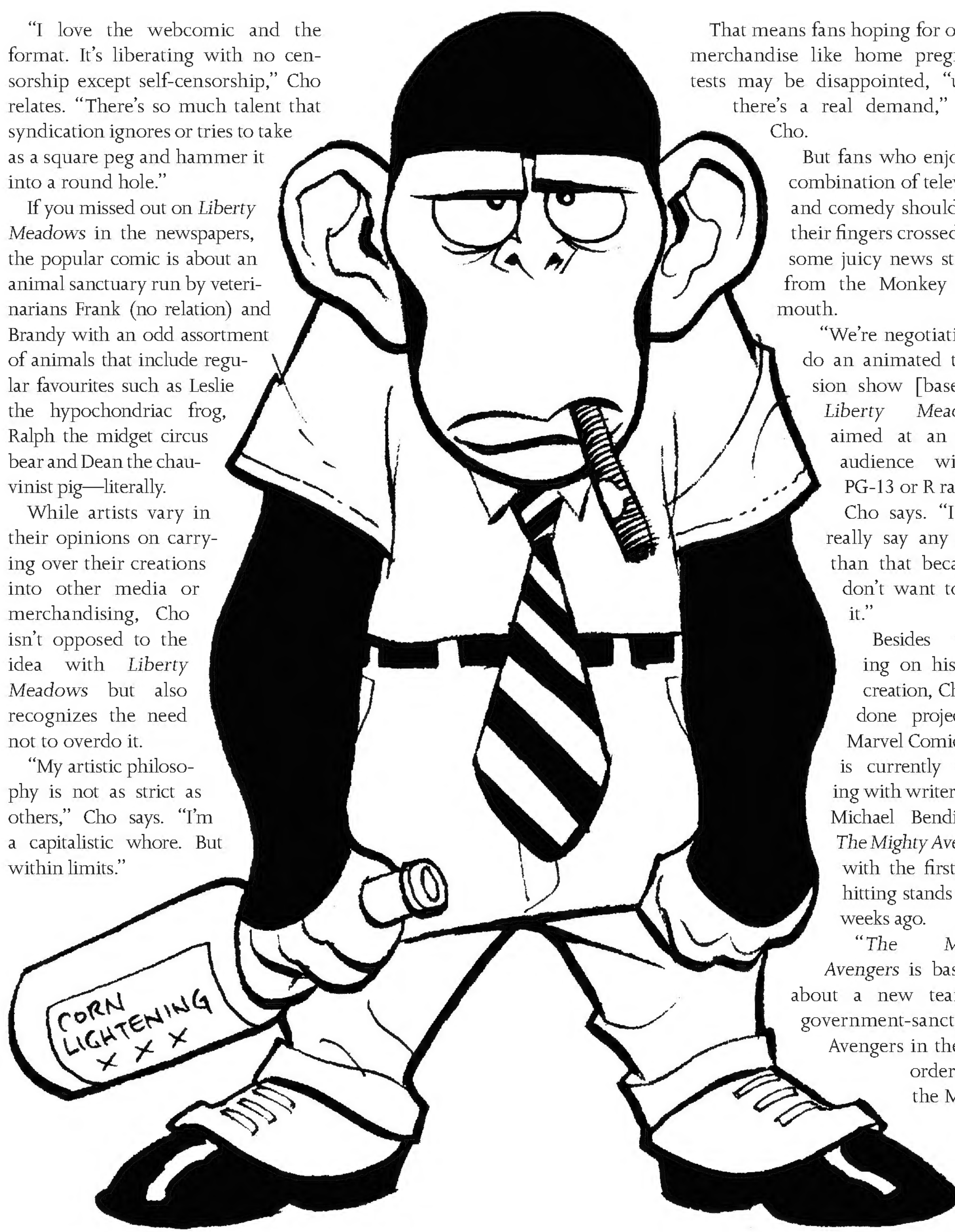
Cho is more enthusiastic about comic strips finding new life in digital form online, more commonly known as webcomics.

“I love the webcomic and the format. It’s liberating with no censorship except self-censorship,” Cho relates. “There’s so much talent that syndication ignores or tries to take as a square peg and hammer it into a round hole.”

If you missed out on *Liberty Meadows* in the newspapers, the popular comic is about an animal sanctuary run by veterinarians Frank (no relation) and Brandy with an odd assortment of animals that include regular favourites such as Leslie the hypochondriac frog, Ralph the midget circus bear and Dean the chauvinist pig—literally.

While artists vary in their opinions on carrying over their creations into other media or merchandising, Cho isn’t opposed to the idea with *Liberty Meadows* but also recognizes the need not to overdo it.

“My artistic philosophy is not as strict as others,” Cho says. “I’m a capitalistic whore. But within limits.”



That means fans hoping for official merchandise like home pregnancy tests may be disappointed, “unless there’s a real demand,” jokes Cho.

But fans who enjoy the combination of television and comedy should keep their fingers crossed with some juicy news straight from the Monkey Boy’s mouth.

“We’re negotiating to do an animated television show [based on *Liberty Meadows*] aimed at an adult audience with a PG-13 or R rating,” Cho says. “I can’t really say any more than that because I don’t want to jinx it.”

Besides working on his own creation, Cho has done projects at Marvel Comics and is currently working with writer Brian Michael Bendis on *The Mighty Avengers* with the first issue hitting stands a few weeks ago.

“*The Mighty Avengers* is basically about a new team of government-sanctioned Avengers in the new order of the Marvel

Universe after the events of *Civil War*,” Cho explains.

The recently concluded *Civil War* storyline attracted attention in the mainstream press with high-profile events that included the surprising and controversial death of a major superhero icon.

“I expected the increased attention in the mainstream press because of the way Hollywood is gobbling up all of the properties,” Cho says. “Some of the harsher, more visceral reactions to the *Civil War* story and things like the death of Captain America were a bit surprising though.”

As for *Liberty Meadows*, it wouldn’t be complete in any format without the Monkey Boy, a rendition of himself in monkey form that Cho uses to sometimes break the fourth wall in his strips. Cult film aficionados may also recognize it as a reference to the 1984 film, *The Adventures of Buckaroo Bonzai Across the 8th Dimension* starring Peter “Robocop” Weller. As for the fascination with monkeys and other primates, Cho cites several reasons.

“I don’t know what it is,” Cho ponders. “I think there’s an innate philosophy that all people have that monkeys equal comedy, something I discovered early on. They’re like caricatures of human beings and they’re fun to look at. And they fling their own poop.”

But when faced with choosing between his children or having an army of primates at his command, the father of two has his priorities in order.

“As a loving pragmatist, I’d have to go with my children,” Cho gushes. “At least until they hit puberty. When they reach their teen years and start rebelling, I might look into monkeys. Robot monkeys.”

The Cherry Orchard a bittersweet performance

The Cherry Orchard

By Anton Chekhov
Directed by Richard Greenblatt
Starring the Graduating BFA Acting
Class of 2007
Timms Centre for the Arts
Runs until April 7

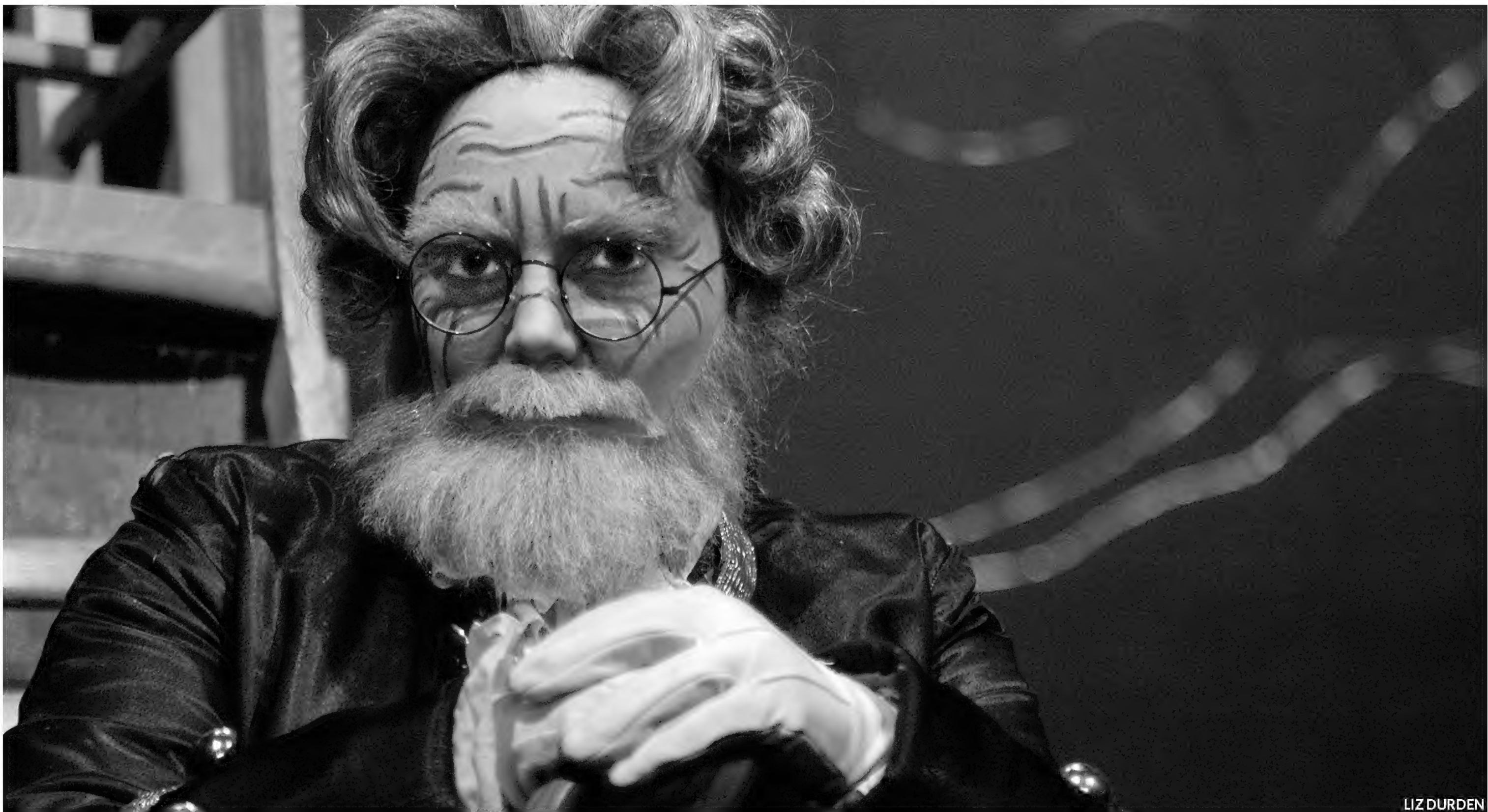
RYAN KENNY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In the bowl of cherries that is life, a few are bound to be sour. Such is the case in the latest Studio Theatre production of *The Cherry Orchard*: your face may pucker from time to time, but in the end, you'll be satisfied.

The last of Chekhov's four plays, *The Cherry Orchard* takes place in Russia during the late 1800s, a time of great social change. It concerns a family and their home estate, which will soon be lost if swift action is not taken. However, the owners are stuck in the past, unable to fully grasp the situation they find themselves in. This obliviousness is the source of both comedy and tragedy.

The play's cast is made up of soon-to-be graduates from the University of Alberta's BFA program, which is represented in the number of truly excellent performances. Years down the road, audience members will be able to proudly tell their snobby theatre buddies that they watched local theatre celebrities X, Y and even Z while they were only students—and even then, they *knew* those kids would be stars.

The atmosphere created by Serbian set designer Snezana Pesic, however,



LIZ DURDEN

is hit-and-miss. She takes a minimalist approach, scattering the odd chair or furniture piece across a large, empty stage. The sets for the first and last scenes were very well done, both incorporating a large cherry tree branch hanging behind a picture frame, a static and powerful symbol. Other sets, though, were less successful: a group of hanging Orthodox crosses contributed little to the second scene, only becoming

significant near the end where they functioned as a visual supplement for a speech. It was a bit of a stretch.

The play's direction was quite non-descript. Nothing very bold or modern, just a traditional play directed in a traditional way. The introduction of each scene with a song is one of the only noticeable touches, but it doesn't add much to the production as a whole. One of the songs even has a strangely African feel, which does more to

confuse the audience than enhance the tone of the piece.

In the end, a great script always compliments a great production. The complex, funny and emotional text carried the show through the occasional stumbles. From the squeaking boots of clumsy Yepichodov to the obscene speeches of the delightfully odd Carlotta, the play is full of hilarious moments. It's also full of irony; the phrase "life is awful" is repeated from

start to finish from a variety of characters, taking on a slightly different meaning each time it's used.

Although many of Chekhov's plays tend to lean on the banal, serious side of things, *The Cherry Orchard* does a fine job of allowing detailed caricatures to run amok and take entertaining spins. Indeed, once you pick out all the sour cherries, what you'll have leftover is a decent, well-rounded production.

Playing *Host* to a formaldehyde-fuelled sea monster

The Host

Directed by Joon-ho Bong
Starring Kang-ho Song, Hie-bong
Byeon, Hae-il Park, Du-na Bae and
Ah-sung Ko
Empire Theatres
Now Playing

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Just the thought of subtitled movies can turn away most audiences, and if you add "Korean" and "monster" to the mix, chances are the remaining demographic of viewers are male fans. However, with the latest overseas beast-and-screaming-people creation, *The Host*, everyone from art house hipsters to horror lovers will

settle into their seats for an intriguing couple of hours.

Recently nominated for a Hong Kong Film Award (Best Asian Film) and two Saturn Awards (Best International Film and Best Performance by a Younger Actor), *The Host* is part comedy, part political commentary and part monster-on-the-rampage horror movie. It's also South Korea's highest grossing movie of all time, setting dozens of box-office records and winning five of Korea's Blue Dragon Awards.

The opening premise of the movie is based on a true story. In the year 2000, morgue worker Albert McFarland of the Yongsan Garrison United States military base ordered 20 gallons of toxic formaldehyde to

be disposed of directly into the Seoul sewer system. His Korean aide protested this unsafe dumping to no avail, and the formaldehyde found itself swimming down Korea's Han River.

When the Korean aide later brought this to the attention of an environmental group, a political battle between South Korea and the United States regarding custody of McFarland broke out. Years later, McFarland was handed over to the South Korean government for prosecution and was convicted to six months prison time. However, he has yet to serve. This is just the latest in a string of incidents that has South Koreans feeling bitterly resentful about the ongoing American occupation of their country.

Now, while you might be lead to assume that *The Host* will take a documentary, preach-to-the-environmentalists turn, it doesn't. Rather, the film tends to focus on the imaginative and fantastic. That's right: *The Host* speculates what effects the formaldehyde has created. The chemical has caused some sort of sea animal to wildly mutate into a gigantic, blood-thirsty, incredibly acrobatic and amphibious monster.

From here, the movie features one crazy scene after another, rapidly alternating between horror and comedy. This juxtaposition is interesting, especially when an outrageously hilarious scene is placed right before a gruesome bloodbath.

The Host also boasts special

effects by Weta Workshop and The Orphanage—*Lord of the Rings* and *Sin City*, respectively—that make the film that much more of a testosterone fest. However, *The Host* isn't without its weak elements, like the painfully out-of-focus camera shots. In addition, there are many scenes that will seem unnecessary and strange for many of North American viewers; much of the cinematic and metaphorical genius behind the movie is lost in the trip overseas.

Although *The Host* may be critiqued as being a two-hour-long gore fest, there are elements to the film that are to be appreciated. Besides, cinematography aside, who doesn't enjoy seeing a slimy reptile transform into a giant, man-eating beast?

Stop the spread of syphilis

Alberta is facing an outbreak of infectious syphilis.

Over 200 cases of infectious syphilis were identified throughout the province last year; a 40% increase from the previous year.

Anyone who is having unprotected sex, outside of an exclusive, single partner relationship, can contract syphilis. People of all ages face the risk.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection that can cause serious health consequences. It can be detected with a simple blood test and is treated with antibiotics.

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TREND HIRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS

Zombies in movies: uncouth or totally awesome?

There's no room for zombies in my cinematic collection, Jonn



PAUL
BLINOV

point

Zombies are eroding modern cinema. You heard me. Every time I see one of those shambling pus-bags take a bite out of some hapless human's neck, I sigh, space out and wait for the credits to finally start rolling. Zombies are stupid, pointless and dull villains in any movie, but it seems that more and more flicks about the undead are being made to a weaker and weaker effect. *Graveyard Alive? Zombie Honeymoon? Night of the Living Dead 3D?* Are you fucking kidding me?

Monsters aren't just created out of pure imagination like modern filmmakers seem to think; they all stem from deeply rooted societal terrors. Frankenstein's creation originally formed out of Industrial Revolution-era fears, where new technologies were forcing people out of jobs. Society was afraid of what it was creating, and thus the man-made monster resonated deeply. Now that those fears have left society, however, Frankenstein's monster is now usually portrayed as a goofy thing—if it's portrayed at all. The fear within society that spawned the monster has left, and naturally the monster has left along with it.

Zombies—the flesh-eating, rotting, walking-corpse type, not the voodoo type—have followed a similar route as Frankenstein's monster, but without the sensible exit. George A Romero's original ... *Of The Living Dead* trilogy is classic; studies in Cold War paranoia, capitalist, consumer nature and the ever-present threat of an apocalypse. This is the stuff fine zombie movies

are made of, and only Romero seemed to grasp this. Now, even though the threat that created them has gone away, filmmakers let zombies meaninglessly shamble onto countless more films, and as a result, the genre has disintegrated into nothing but cheap screams and shitty acting. These are mere shadows of Romero's masterpieces and they've gotten so bad that Romero's gotten back onto the zombie bandwagon. He released the well-acclaimed *Land of the Dead* in 2005, but it did little to steer his contemporaries in the right direction.

The really sad part is that these modern zombie movies—zombie nouveau, if you will—aren't even an exciting batch able to compensate for the lack of fright. Zombies on screen are almost always slow, meandering wastes of our time. We know exactly what they're going to do on their own—nothing. The only times these zombies actually catch someone is through sheer luck or superior numbers. Exciting, huh? Huh?

The fact that *Shaun of the Dead*—a spoof of zombie movies covering pretty much everything mentioned above—is the most successful film in the zombie nouveau catalogue shows the state that the genre's in. Most newer zombie movies are cheap throw-togethers that you and your friends could recreate with a few fake guns and a bucket of red paint, yet they're taking up an increasing portion of the market. The 2007's movie release schedule currently includes *Zombie Farm*, *American Zombie*, *Zombie Hunters*, *Fido* (yeah, it's about zombies) and *Zombie Girl: The Movie*. Are they low-budget? Almost certainly. Will you go see any of them? Probably not. But they exist, in bulk, sucking movie deals away from fresher subject matter.

The greatest damage a zombie can inflict upon movie-goers these days is to just showing up in movies at all. The industry is being overrun with terrible, terrible zombie nouveau, and I'd rather die than join it.

Paul, this is a no-brainer. Zombies are filled with blood and rage!



JONN
KMECH

counterpoint

Oh, Paul. Your pretentious art-house view of cinema only applies to the three per cent of the population that enjoys watching absurd silent films produced in France, which are only appreciated if high on Quaaludes. The fact is, the rest of the movie-going public thinks zombies are totally, 100 per cent awesome and should be added to as much cinema as possible.

You bring up the Industrial Revolution, which I know almost nothing about. Why? It was so boring! But just think: how many more kids would take an interest in Eli Whitney's cotton gin or a cripplingly bleak industrial wasteland if we just added zombies? More educational films should take advantage of their coolness factor and ravenous bloodlust. Third graders would clamour for history documentaries if they were watching Jethro Tull pilot his kick-ass seed drill through a swarm of subhumans, crushing them into organic fertilizer and pounding them deep into the earth. I'm also pretty sure they had orphans back in those days in the factories, too. Just turn them into zombies and you have the perfect setup for one of those creepy little-kid thrillers, where the sweatshop owners get some sweet, flesh-eating vengeance enacted upon them. Now those are movies I'd learn something from!

With a subtle and nuanced use of the walking undead, we could put that spark back into movies again. You mention shitty acting and cheap screams in B-horror movies, but these are things we're all accustomed to seeing in your typical romantic comedy—a niche market for women

that perfectly emphasizes how zombies could push cinema further. That genre has been dry and mundane for far too long.

Just add some maggot-riddled cannibals, and your boyfriends will be begging you to go check out the newest Jude Law flick, ladies! This innovation could revolutionize modern relationships; no longer will men have to sit in the theatre, teary-eyed and breathless, while their women focus on Hugh Grant's foppish British charms, teary-eyed and breathless. Just have Renée Zellweger or Sandra Bullock drive an axe through his skull and males will get such an adrenaline rush that they'll willingly go to any future rom-com their girlfriends desire. Relationship bliss and box office gold, ahoy!

Any time zombies are added to movies, they up the excitement factor, Paul. Zombies are the perfect movie villains. They're just like Nazis; no one cares if they get killed. So what if zombies are "slow, meandering wastes of our time." That's sounds like the majority of movies these days. Such low budget films have a distinct allure that could pull people back to the theaters. Vietnam had zombies, they just called them heroin addicts back then. You'd barely be altering history. Finally, wouldn't the ladies swoon over a dashing Clark Gable, sleeveless in a bloody plaid shirt and brandishing an outwardly extended double-barreled shotgun, as he uttered the climactic line, "Frankly, Scarlett, it's time to die." How's that for *zombie nouveau*?

The greatest damage we could do to cinema now is allow people who want puerile avant-garde films that feature things like "post-impressionism" or "cinematography" to run Hollywood. There are plenty of old zoetropes remaining to amuse you. For the rest of us, the trend of zombies on the silver screen can't be stopped without serious firepower. But that's totally rad with us and we'd rather devour your viscera than join you highfalutin' bastards.

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Retournez ce formulaire au plus tard à 16 h le 30 avril 2007 à :

Denis Collette, directeur du scrutin
301, 8627-91 Street Edmonton (AB) T6C 3N1

Recensement des électeurs
School Act (article 256)

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Note: An English version of this declaration form is available by calling Nathalie at (780) 468-6440 or 1-800-248-6886.



Toy Singers play with simplicity

Toy Singers
With The Corduroys and Colleen Brown
Thursday, 5 April at 8pm
The Powerplant

CARLA KAVINTA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Simplicity is the Toy Singers’ game of choice. The Edmonton-based band takes a refreshing departure from the usual hard rock bands emerging from Canada’s West Coast, placing themselves in a genre lead vocalist/guitarist Aaron Parker calls melodic folk-pop. And just as the quintet tries to avoid anything that sounds too complex, their choice of moniker was also a straightforward task.

“I wanted a name that didn’t have a meaning at all so I wouldn’t get sick of whatever the meaning was,” Parker says. “The name [Toy Singers] isn’t very aggressive, but it has kind of a child-like quality to it. I don’t really know how I came up with it, but that’s what I thought it should be.”

The band, formed by a group of mutual friends, preserves the authenticity of folk music while creating a

mainstream pop sound that speaks to a wide range of listeners—from twentysomething students to 40-something soccer moms. Parker credits their sound to a positive, cheerful and easy-going attitude towards songwriting.

“Our songwriting approach definitely has evolved, but [I think we’ve come to the] realization long ago that the melody is the most important part,” Parker explains. “Our songs had to be kind of hum-able, catchy and would have a fun element outside the words. And usually we try to write about stuff that is realistic in our lives; nothing particularly melodramatic, deep, emo or anything like that. We just stay true to our personalities.”

However, maintaining such artistic prowess can be difficult, as real life often gets in the way of achieving some of the band’s goals. Parker himself works for a publishing company, a fellow vocalist in the group recently gave birth, and having a teacher in the band also serves as a constant factor in determining the group’s touring and rehearsing schedules.

“Our immediate goal would be to play once a month, you know. Or one-and-a-half times a month. Just to

play and to get our name out there,” Parker admits. He stresses the importance of a live performance and is eager to tour even just the western provinces.

“[The live performance] just validates everything because you can start to feel like you’ve disappeared if you just record, practice a few lines and nobody hears it,” Parker continues. “You’re not connecting with people. I’d just like a local tour playing Calgary, Saskatoon ... just to get out of here would be a lot of fun, I think.”

Although touring across Canada and performing in larger venues are pressing aspirations for many independent Canadian bands, Parker remains grounded to his E-town roots and is confident that their uniqueness, honesty and ability to cater to a variety of listeners will help them garner a wider fan base.

“I like being the Toy Singers in Edmonton and I think in a lot of ways it’s going to be to our advantage because there aren’t a lot of Toy-Singers-like bands,” Parker says. “In bigger cities, there’s a lot of pressure to fit into a certain scene. And we definitely don’t do that.”



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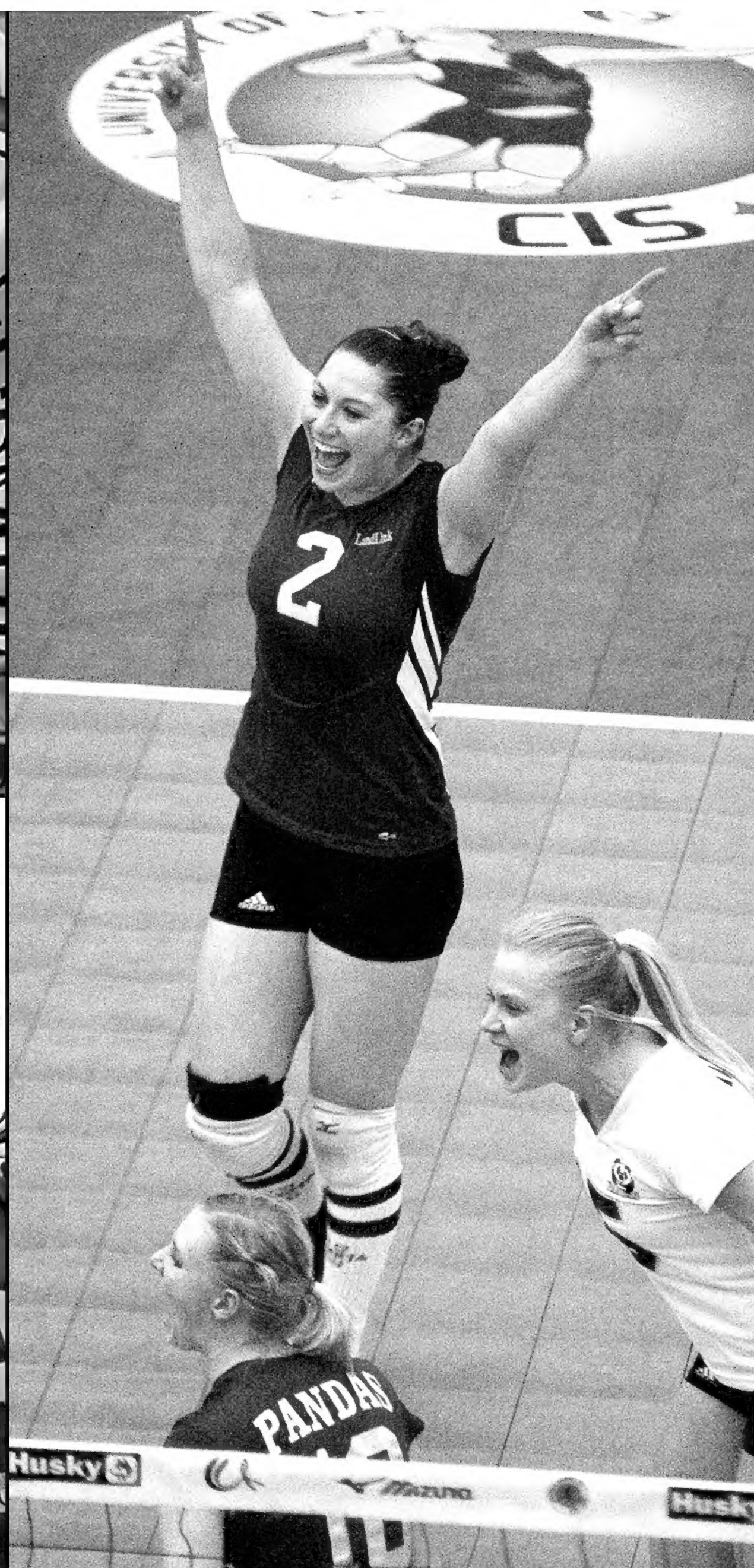
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FILE PHOTOS: TOP: JASON CHIU, THE FULCRUM (CUP), BOTTOM: LIZ DURDEN, RIGHT: CHRIS TAIT, THE GAUNTLET (SPECIAL TO CUP)

Alberta tops Gateway CIS rankings again

ANDREW RENFREE
PAUL OWEN
Sports Staff

While students have to slave away until the end of April studying for exams, CIS sports has already packed it in, wrapping up the 2006/07 athletic season last week. The last seven months have seen heated competition in the rinks, gyms, fields, pools, mats and tracks in universities across Canada, but now that all the dust has settled, the chips are poised to be counted. After hours of moving the coloured beads on the abacus, the sportos at the Gateway have calculated the top-ten Athletics programs in the land in our second annual breakdown of which schools have the right to claim to be the best in CIS. See page 15 for scores and how we calculated them.

10. University of Manitoba Ranked 17th last year



A couple of things stand out from the Bisons' year as being noteworthy. First, their football team had a great year, going 8-0 in the regular season and dominating the Canada West conference—only to lose to the pesky Saskatchewan Huskies in the Hardy Cup. Despite the early exit to the season, Manitoba's football team was still one of the better clubs in Canada, and they showed improvement over the previous year. The

other interesting story for the Bisons this year was that they gave the Pandas hockey team their first loss of the regular season on 3 November. It was a friendly reminder to Alberta that the days of undefeated seasons were behind them. Another bright spot on the year was when Manitoba women's volleyball head coach Ken Bentley won coach of the year after leading his team to the National finals for the first time since 2001/02. Freshman outside hitter Ashley Voth was also named Rookie of the Year. Unfortunately for Manitoba, Bentley's highly ranked volleyball squad lost in the first-round at Nationals, preventing them from scoring more points.

9. University of Saskatchewan Ranked third last year



The Huskies football team has developed a proud tradition over the last few years of having a great season, getting to the Vanier Cup and blowing the final to settle for second place in CIS football. This year was no different as they lost to Laval in the gold medal game, but nonetheless the Huskies still had one of the better football programs in Canada. That's only part of the reason they're in the top ten. The Huskies men's hockey team was finally able to beat Alberta in the Canada West final for the first time in six years, which meant that the Dogs

advanced to the National finals, and Alberta had to pack up their equipment early. The best-of-three Canada West final between the bitter rivals was some of the best hockey Clare Drake Arena has seen in a while, which maybe drained Saskatchewan a bit because they didn't fare as well as expected at the CIS championships. Track and field and wrestling are also Saskatchewan strong points, but they take a back burner to the hockey and football programs, which have established themselves as some of the premier in the country.

8. University of Western Ontario Ranked tenth last year



It's not really clear what the Western Ontario Mustangs have to run from, but they seem to be in a hurry. Western has dominant cross-country running and track teams that seem to perennially propel them into the upper echelon of Canadian varsity athletics. Western also produces strong rugby, wrestling and soccer squads each year, which help them offset some of the larger team sports that they don't dominate, like volleyball and hockey. Despite their strong performances in cross-country and on the track, the Mustangs had only one award winner: Jessica Fitzgerald won the student-athlete and community award in women's wrestling. They also won only two medals: silver in

men's track and field and bronze in women's wrestling.

7. Dalhousie University Ranked eleventh last year



The Tigers won two bronze medals in men's swimming and women's cross-country, and placed fourth in women's basketball thanks to a first-round upset of the top-seeded UBC Thunderbirds. They also made Nationals in men's volleyball, where they lost to Alberta in the first round, and placed eighth in men's track and field. Individually, the Tigers brought home four awards: David Fry was named men's swimming Coach of the Year, Jeff Weiler was Libero of the Year in men's volleyball, Ueli Alberta won the student-athlete award in men's track and field and Ryan Haughn won the same in men's soccer. Overall, it was an impressive season for the Tigers as they demolished their AUS competition, finishing 13 spots ahead of their closest conference rivals: SFX.

6. University of Ottawa Ranked 25th last year



Ottawa's score stems from vast improvement in both football and men's basketball—the two teams placed third

in their sports. A bronze medal for the Gee-Gee women in soccer also helps make the U of O the highest-scoring school in the nation's capital. They also competed at Nationals in women's volleyball and women's hockey, hosting the latter event. The Gee-Gee's football team also scored for Ottawa in the individual categories, as head coach Denis Piché was named CIS Coach of the Year, and Naim El-Far won the Russ Jackson award for excelling both academically and athletically. El-Far's award is especially fitting as Jackson was a long-time standout for the Ottawa Rough Riders.

5. University of Toronto Ranked fourth last year



Toronto finished in the top ten in only four sports—cross-country, swimming, field hockey and track and field—but did very well in those sports to get a high standing. The Blues took three National medals and finished a close fourth in women's swimming. Bolstering the Blues score is standout distance runner Megan Brown, who won gold in cross-country and was named CIS Track Athlete of the Year. Mike Bialy was named the Male Soccer Player of the Year as well. Toronto had the third-highest score in the individual awards, but finished tenth in team performance, resulting in a drop off from last season.

4. University of British Columbia
Ranked second last year



With all this talk of UBC's bid to join the NCAA, they aren't quite the cream of the CIS crop. Their athletic seasons fell a little short this year, and the 'Birds garnered less awards than the other top universities. Perhaps the consolation of falling off the podium in this year's rankings is that most of their athletics facilities are getting facelifts in preparation for the 2010 Olympics. Being on the ocean, it's fitting that swimming is UBC's marquee event, and both their men's and women's squads earned gold at Nationals. But UBC's prowess doesn't stop at the shallow end of the lap pool. The female Thunderbirds also won gold in soccer and field hockey—which have been strong suits of the program for several years. The basketball and volleyball programs are solid enough to make a national impact, which means UBC is one of the better all-round schools in CIS, and their four titles are more than any other schools.

3. Université Laval
Ranked sixth last year



Laval was the only team from Québec to crack the top ten in CIS this season,

but they made a run for the top spot by winning the Vanier Cup in football in the fall and following that up with strong performances in the pool and on the volleyball court. If only team results were considered, the Rouge et Or would have been ranked second in the country, but they only managed to get three awards despite having a strong season. Their silver in women's volleyball and bronze in women's swimming bolstered their score significantly, as did Élise Duchesne, who won Libro of the Year in women's volleyball. Laval also scored a pair of Rookie of the Year honours, as Geneviève Thibault took it in women's track and field, and Jean-François Beaulieu-Maheux did so in men's basketball.

2. University of Calgary
Ranked fifth last year



Track and field, volleyball and wrestling were strong sports that put the Dinos on pace for a strong athletic year, as were their efforts in the pool. What really bolstered their ranking this year was a plethora of awards including two for football, three for swimming, two for track and two for wrestling. Jessica Zelinka was named Female Field Athlete of the Year, while quarterback Dalin Tollestrup was Rookie of the Year in football. With Calgary having such a strong year in 2006/07, the battle of Alberta for varsity athletics supremacy looks to heat up even more

next year. A pair of silvers in swimming, a bronze in women's volleyball and golds in women's wrestling and track gave the Dinos five National medals on the year—a number that tied them with Alberta.

1. University of Alberta



Ranked first last year

For the second year in a row, the ol' Green and Gold came out as the best university athletics program in Canada. Be sure to put that on your Curriculum Vitae when you leave these hallowed halls. Both the Bears and Pandas were represented in the national finals by 13 of their 19 CIS teams. Football and rugby were the only real disappointments in an excellent year marked by five national championship appearances, three of which won gold medals. Alberta also brought in a ton of hardware in the form of individual awards for coaches and players. Scott Edwards, Carla Somerville, Len Vickery, Liz Jepsen and Terry Danyluk were all recognized as Coach of the Year in their respective sports. Pandas hockey and volleyball standouts Lindsay McAlpine and Tiffany Dodds both received Player of the Year nods, and Taryn Barry (Pandas Hockey) and Jarret Wall (Wrestling) were both recognized for their community involvement.



FILE PHOTO: JASON CHIU, THE FULCRUM (CUP)
GOLD MAKES EVERYONE HAPPY The Pandas' CIS title was a big part of a big year for the Alberta athletics department that saw them top our CIS rankings.

Rank	School	Performance	5 pt Awards	3 pt Awards	Award Points	Total
1	Alberta	95	7	2	41	136
2	Calgary	66	8	0	40	106
3	Laval	69	3	0	15	84
4	UBC	62.5	1	0	5	67.5
5	Toronto	41	4	2	26	67
6	Ottawa	47	1	2	11	58
7	Dalhousie	41.5	2	2	16	57.5
8	Western Ont	53	0	1	3	56
9	Saskatchewan	44.5	2	0	10	54.5
10	Manitoba	32	3	0	15	47

For complete statistics, including per-sport breakdowns and rankings of all CIS schools, check out the online edition at www.thegatewayonline.ca/sports

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Athletes staying in class for Masters in coaching

NICK FROST
Sports Staff

For most CIS athletes, contribution to their team ends when their eligibility does. But, with the U of A's Masters of Coaching program, some former Bears and Pandas are finding a way back to their former teams by holding clipboards on the sidelines.

Of the four students currently enrolled in the program, three are former Golden Bear or Panda athletes—despite it being available to anyone who has an undergraduate degree and a level-three coaching certification through the national coaching body. Current Golden Bears football running backs coach Jason Lafferty and current Bears volleyball assistant coach Aaron Schulha are both helping with their former teams, while former Pandas volleyball player Jennifer Telfer is also taking her graduate degree.

"[The Masters in Coaching program] is a big reason why I came back from playing volleyball overseas

last year," said Schulha, who spent the past year competing in Europe. "You get a different view from some of the other people who have coached in the past. As well, there are people from all different sports, so the thinking is a little bit different in that it kind of broadens your view on a few things—things you wouldn't think about in your own sport. It's nice to have those different views to help you think outside the box a little bit and apply that to your own sport."

The degree is offered at only a handful of universities across the country, and provides students with not only a Masters, but also a corresponding level of coaching, according to Mike Mahon, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.

"When our coaches graduate, they graduate with certification from the National Coaching Certification program, as well as with a Masters degree because of our relationship and understanding signed with the Coaching Association of Canada,"

Mahon said. "Ours is the first program to be able to accomplish that in the country, so it's a real attraction for students because, in the end, it means that they come out with a couple of pretty significant accomplishments."

One distinguishing factor of the Alberta program is that the coaches that guide their teams from the bench at a Bears or Pandas game also advise students of this program inside the classroom.

"Other universities don't have their coaches as part of their academic program; they have them as, basically, fundraisers, coaches [and] recruiters," explained Ian Reade, the coaching concentration coordinator with the Faculty of Physical Education. "Our coaches teach, and it makes a huge difference even in terms of the respect that they have for the student-side of the athlete. They're not teaching their athletes, they're teaching general, run-of-the-mill people in the student body, so they get a sense of what the pressures are on a student. It's a very important piece of

why this all works—if the coaches weren't academic staff, this program wouldn't exist. It's as simple as that."

However, the program—now in its fourth year of existence—has encountered some bumps along the way. One concern faced by its directors is the number of students enrolling each year; on average, only four students enroll for their Masters in coaching annually, with coaching seminars being offered every two years, bringing the student total to eight. Because of the demand for high-level coaches in Canada, Reade—one of the people spearheading the degree—said that he would, ideally, like to see coaching seminars being offered every year, and to more students.

"We're struggling to try and figure out what the real number should be—if you get too big, the quality of the experience for the students in the seminars just isn't there," Reade explained. "I don't think you can have a good seminar beyond eight or ten students, so it's hard to say where it's going to go."

THE PROGRAM

- It was started four years ago by a group within the Faculty of Phys Ed and Rec, headed up by Dr Dru Marshall.
- It takes two years to complete.
- Students take four mandatory courses that are coaching-specific (physiology and psychology courses, as they relate to sport sciences), and four courses that are optional, but should be related to something involving sports (ie sports ethics, sports organization, etc)
- Graduation from this program is the equivalent of a level-four or -five certification from the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP)
- It's a non-thesis program. Instead they do a capping project that focuses on some aspect of coaching, as well as a six-credit practicum working directly with a national team head coach, or the equivalent of.



Roy Halladay is an imposing figure.

He stands 6'6" on a raised mound and fires balls at people at almost 100 miles-per-hour. Luckily, despite our sports editor's love of the game, the *Gateway* doesn't spend a lot of time covering Major League Baseball. Instead, we try to focus on the Bears and Pandas, covering the games that happen on campus. If this sounds like fun to you, fire off an e-mail to sports@gateway.ualberta.ca

We're done newspapering for this year, but we are making papers in the summer, and we're always looking for new volunteers. Plus, if you volunteer for us, you can play on our intramural slo-pitch team this summer. It's almost like baseball, except anyone can do it.

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U of A athletic year leaves plenty of opportunities to play what-if



PAUL OWEN

Sports Commentary

In 185 conference games this season, the Bears and Pandas teams lost a combined 37 times in regulation. That's ridiculously good. Alberta's .765 winning percentage is better than every team in the MLB, NFL, NBA and NHL—except the Dallas Mavericks and the Baltimore Ravens. And we're not talking about a single sport here: Alberta competes in men's and women's volleyball, basketball, hockey and soccer, as well as men's football and women's field hockey and rugby. Those eleven sports combined for only one losing season (field hockey's 3-5-3 mark) and one .500 year (Bears football going 4-4). Alberta had two CIS MVPs and five CIS Coach of the Year awards. They boast 20 all-Canadians and sent six of those eleven teams to Nationals. Yet, despite an athletic year that'll go

down as one of the most impressive in school history, the Golden Bears and Pandas could've had so much more. The most glaring omission in the list of accolades the Alberta teams racked up this year comes courtesy of the Golden Bears hockey team. Easily the most shocking of the five teams that didn't make Nationals, the Golden Bears blew two chances to book their ticket to Moncton on two straight nights—giving up goals in the waning moments of the third period in both contests. The Bears were one of the favourites for the National crown despite having a ridiculous turnover, and those involved in the program thought they had a good shot of taking it for the third-straight year. Also missing Nationals after a dominating stretch was the Pandas rugby team, who had medalled for seven-straight years before this season. Still, when Lethbridge upset the Pandas to take the Canada West crown, thus keeping Alberta out of Nationals and snapping their winning streak, it was the first truly shocking moment of the Alberta sports season. Let's not forget about the Pandas

basketball team and Bears volleyball squad. The former will be playing "what-if" all summer as they wonder what could've happened had they hit free-throws in the second half of their 72-68 loss to SFU in the National Final. Similarly the volley Bears will be left wondering why they didn't pass the ball better in their five-set loss to Winnipeg in the gold medal match. It was a terrific season for Alberta athletics all around, and a couple of bad days in key games doesn't change the fact that this was one of the most dominating seasons from a school ever. It came to the point this year when an Alberta loss in any sport came as a surprise, and that's something special. But while the Bears and Pandas gave their fans plenty of reasons to celebrate, it would be wrong to forget that they were within 12 points of winning two more National titles and that two pre-season favourites didn't get to see the big dance at all. It's really a shame; I was hoping to surpass Colin Gallant's 2001/02 record for titles won during a Gateway sports editor's tenure. And I would've liked to put sports on the front page a few more times.

Athlete DUI arrests must be a bigger deal



TREVOR PHILLIPS

Sports Commentary

An interesting trend has developed over the course of spring training in southern Florida. On two separate occasions last month—only six days apart—an MLB player and a manager were pulled over and arrested for drunk driving. It wasn't two Joe Blow minor leaguers on their first trip south either; it was full-fledged major leaguers who tipped a few back and got behind the wheel. Typically, I would tend to disagree with the argument that athletes don't deserve to be treated differently. I mean, we're talking about people that have an ability that only a hundredth of a per cent of the entire world has. However, when boneheads like Blue Jays pitcher Gustavo Chacin and World Series manager Tony La Russa get charged with driving while intoxicated, they become part of a significantly larger section of the population—people who spent the night in prison.

Early on 16 March, Chacin was pulled over by Tampa cops. The pitcher had a blood-alcohol level almost twice that of the legal limit, yet he was released on a \$500 bond. Moreover, the Toronto organization declined to comment on the incident while the whole messy situation was swept underneath the rug. Chacin was even allowed to pitch in his next scheduled start. He got rocked for seven runs in a case of karma biting him in the ass. This kind of behaviour is bullshit, and the Blue Jays' brass didn't even have the sack to step up and reprimand him. It's bad when anybody drinks and drives, but when a professional athlete does, and the management and media don't blow the lid of the situation, that shows a huge flaw in the system. Take Todd Bertuzzi for example. After he broke Steve Moore's neck, the press went apeshit over it. Everywhere you turned, you had to hear somebody's opinion about whether or not Bertuzzi crossed the line or should be suspended. The same thing happened after Kobe Bryant was accused of rape; the media was relentless in making sure that wherever Kobe went he was bombarded with questions and scrutiny. DUI is a much bigger problem in North America than violence in hockey, and is still

too common of an occurrence for the media to shrug it off. But it gets worse. Just six days later, La Russa was arrested for a DUI after Palm Beach County Police found him passed out at the wheel of his SUV with his foot on the brake, at a green light. After La Russa failed the sobriety test, he was administered a breathalyzer where he blew a 0.093—that's about 0.06 lower than Chacin's rating, and La Russa couldn't even stand up. At least the two-time World Series Champion had enough class to apologize publicly after the incident. Regardless of the efforts to deal with this properly, La Russa and everyone else in pro sports have to realize that drinking and driving must stop. Portraying the image that it's okay to drink and drive as long as you apologize or play for a perennial third-place finisher doesn't support the fact it's fucking stupid. People and the media have to stop ignoring that drunk driving is a problem, and when it happens it deserves no less attention than any other criminal offence. MLB and the national media should be ashamed of themselves, and Chacin and La Russa should be thankful that these cops stopped them before they could do any real damage.

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This is next year's Editor-in-Chief, Adam Gaumont

Adam enjoys long walks on the beach, snuggling up next to our Design & Production Editor in bed and making punctuation corrections on Molson ads in bars. Adam also enjoys making stupid bets. Like the one he made with sports editor Paul Owen earlier this year that the Oilers would make the playoffs. They didn't.



"But they're still a good team," he might say. No Adam, no they aren't. You were wrong, and it's time to face the music.

Also, **congratulations**

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The OntarionWord #5

compiled by By Krystian Imgrum of The Ontarion (CUP, University of Guelph)
The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available in the next issue

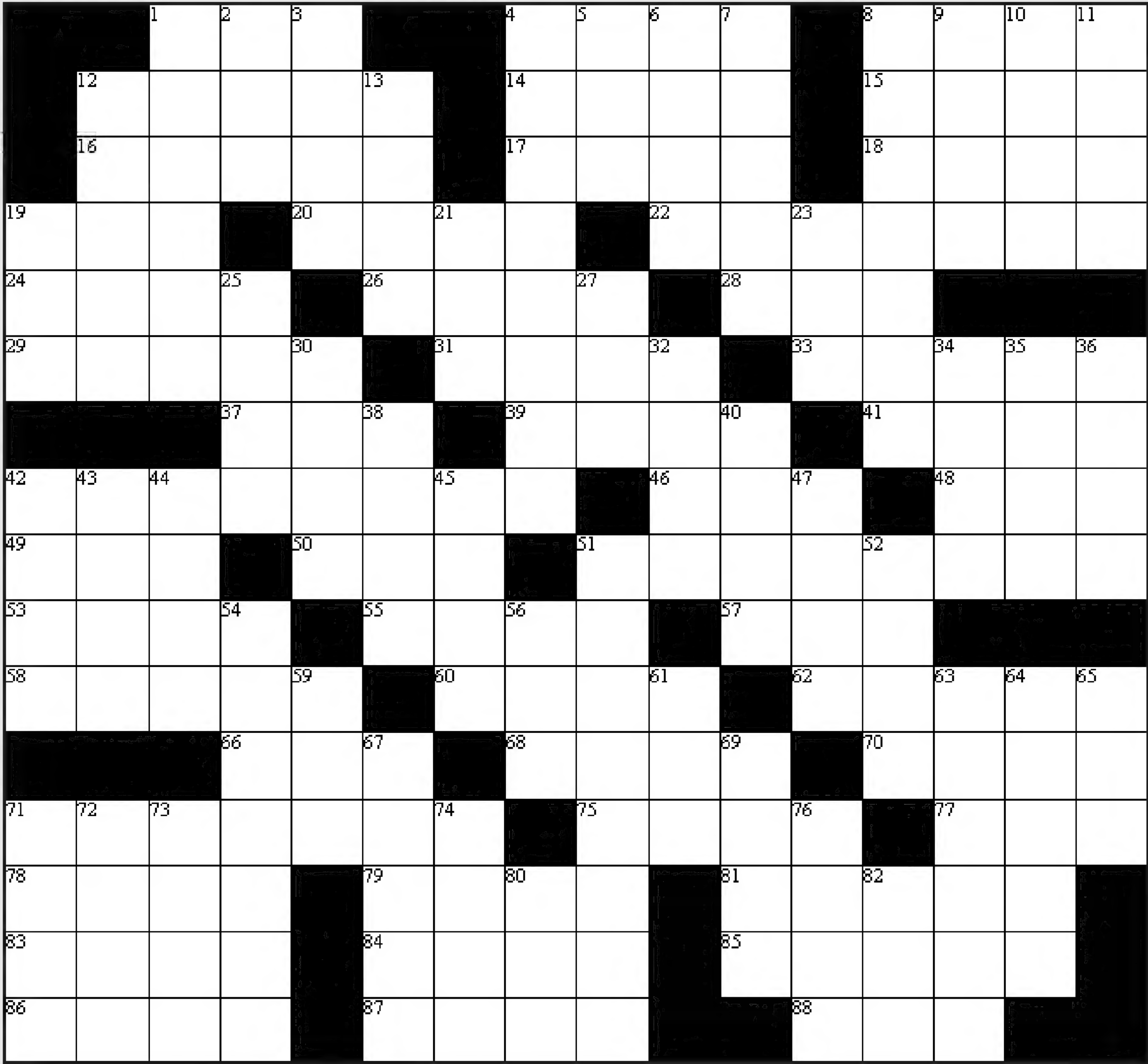
Across

- 1. Lyrical composition
- 4. Insufferable one
- 8. Creep
- 12. Best
- 14. Helper
- 15. Murder on the _____
- 16. Television predecessor
- 17. Farm feed
- 18. Swindler's scheme
- 19. Animal pouch
- 20. Pole structure
- 22. Critiques
- 24. Amass
- 26. Disable
- 28. Took the reins
- 29. Warn
- 31. Incite
- 33. Tattles
- 37. Charged particle
- 39. Author Chomsky
- 41. Marsh bird
- 42. Misleading
- 46. Highland cap
- 48. New (pr.)
- 49. 90's game
- 50. Land parcel
- 51. Criticize (in speech)
- 53. Oodles (2 wds.)
- 55. Cabbage kin
- 57. Take to court
- 58. Proboscises
- 60. Tramp
- 62. Bee band
- 66. Actress Ryan
- 68. Common songbird
- 70. Peter Pan pirate
- 71. Drives
- 75. Showy flower
- 77. Cereal grass
- 78. Uncool
- 79. Was in hoc
- 81. Vandyke, for ex.
- 83. State
- 84. Meteorologist's device
- 85. Epics
- 86. Desires
- 87. Soufflé needs
- 88. Humorist Brooks

Down

- 1. Greek prophet
- 2. Failed bomb

CROSSWORD



- 3. Project
- 4. Fortified locations
- 5. Grease
- 6. Pepé Le Pew's pitfall
- 7. Stave off
- 8. Reporter's informant
- 9. French city
- 10. Talon
- 11. Adjusts clothes
- 12. Follow
- 13. Ozymandias, for ex.
- 19. Mineral spring
- 21. Henpeck
- 23. Dog's doc
- 25. Red Viking?
- 27. Former Chinese ruler

- 30. Slave away
- 32. Star Trek character
- 34. Clark Kent's lady
- 35. In place of
- 36. Gin variety
- 38. Secluded place
- 40. Marvin's home
- 42. Full extent
- 43. Water sport
- 44. Narcissist features
- 45. Salt Lake City state
- 47. Spiegelman comic
- 51. Scottish isles
- 52. 6 o'clock program
- 54. Mitigates
- 56. Blow or brow

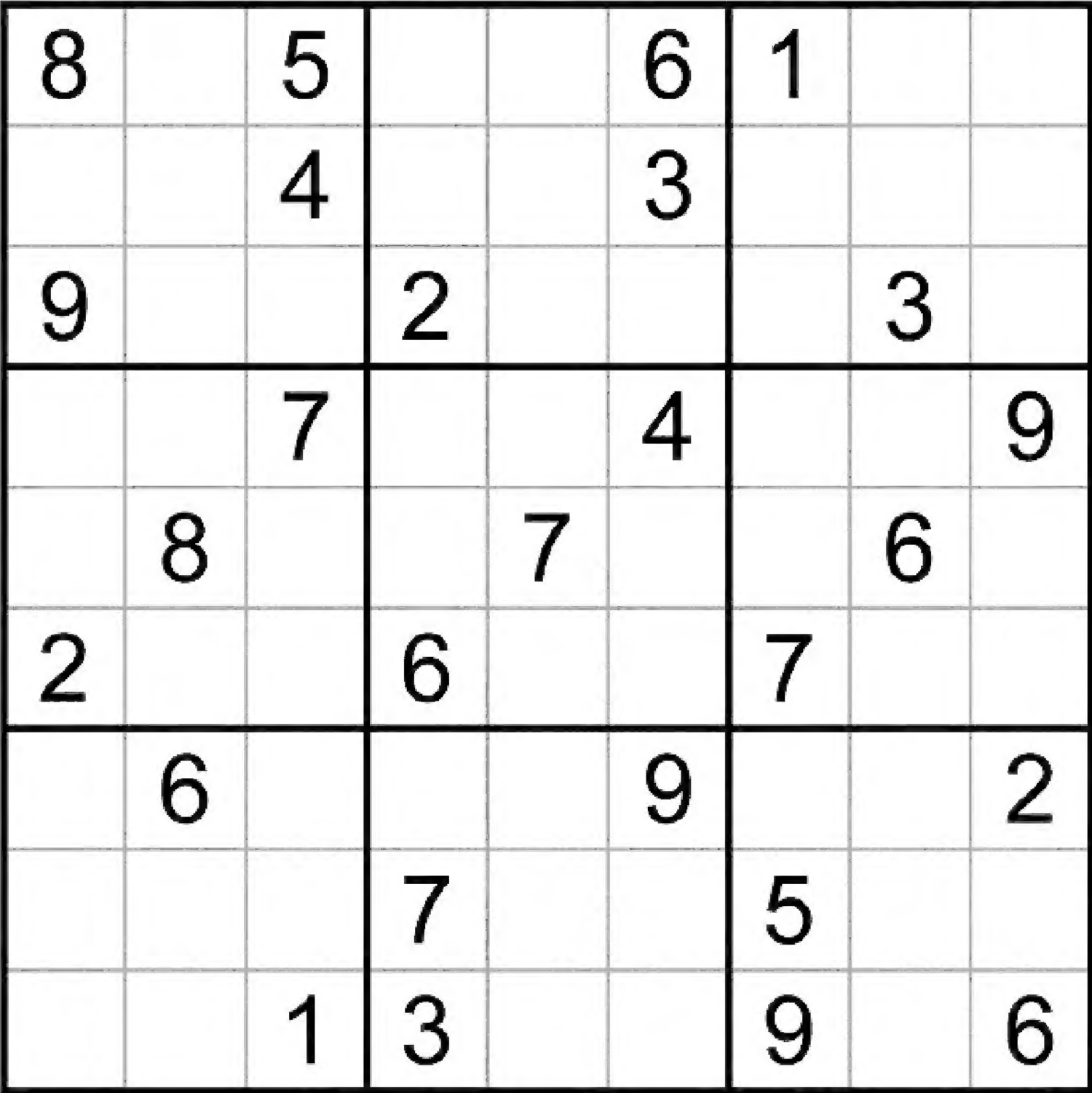
- 59. Witness
- 61. Above, to a bard
- 63. Indifferent
- 64. Picks up Tolstoy
- 65. Encountered
- 67. Jackson accessory
- 69. Pen points
- 71. Shaw output
- 72. Unbridled speech
- 73. Sign
- 74. Lurch
- 76. Sewer's line
- 80. School subj.
- 82. Prepare wine



Solution to The OntarionWord #4
from our 29 March, 2007 Issue

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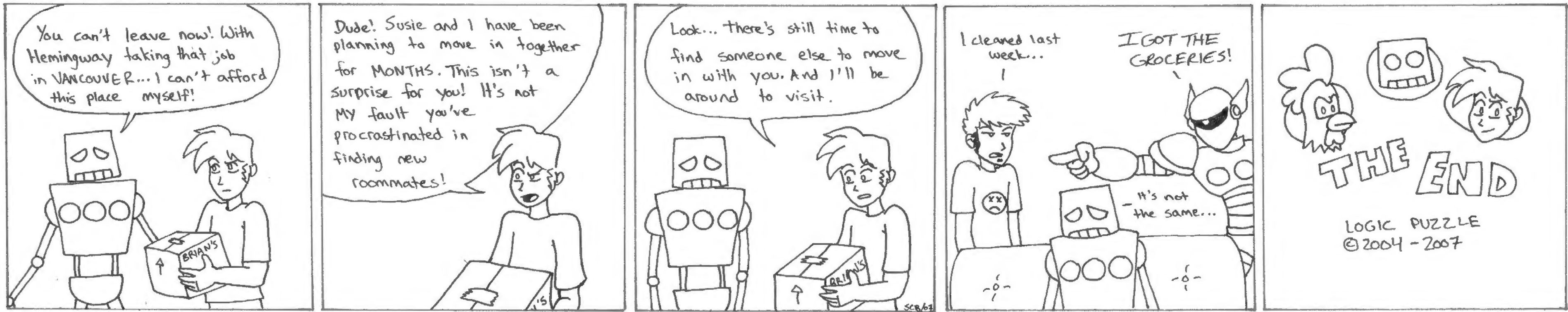
su | do | ku
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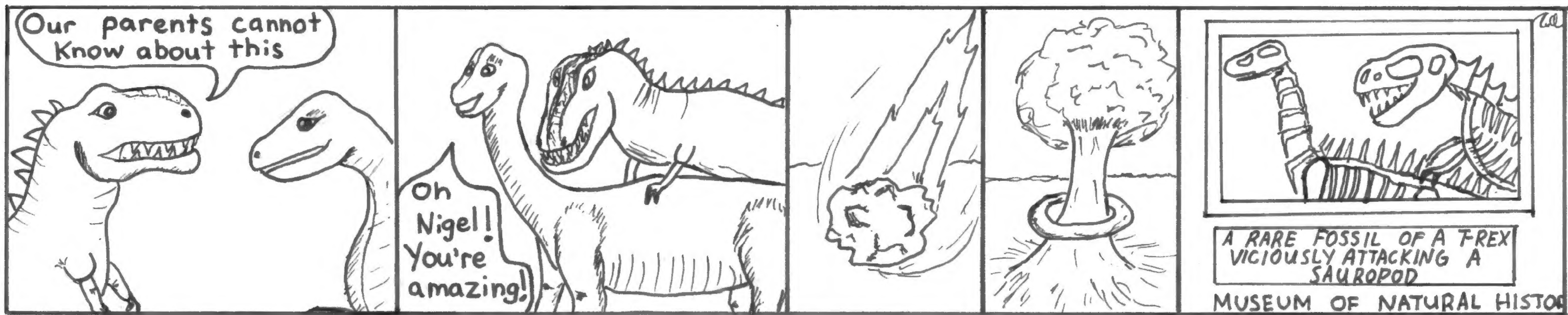
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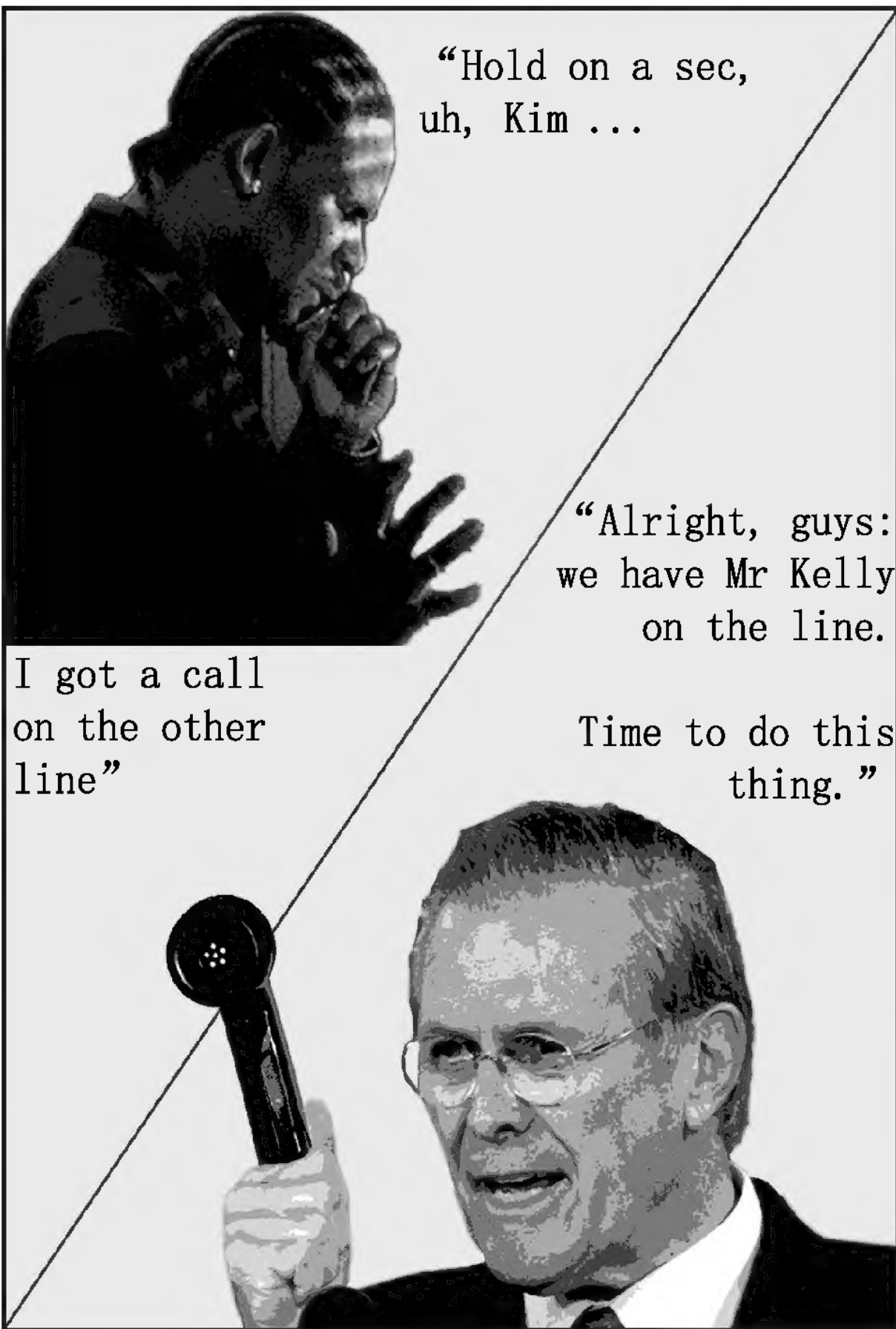
SEXY GEEK by Vishaal Rajani & Ross Lockwood



RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



OUR DEAR LEADER by Adam Gaumont



SYNAPSE by Liv S Vors



Pepe unintentionally spoils his own surprise party.

STEVE NASH LIVING & LOVING by Braden Deane (CUP)



THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 45 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 3 april, 2007



JOSH NAULT

A DIFFERENT KIND OF NUT The Acorn brought their atmospheric folk-rock to the Velvet Underground Saturday night.

US should 'rise up against rankings'

U of A President Indira Samarasekera encourages US schools to abstain from university rankings

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Canadian universities are keeping a watchful eye south of the border as calls to boycott *US News & World Report* as university rankings grow, according to University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera.

Samarasekera explained that she was invited to write the 2 April article, "Rising Up Against Rankings," on the *Inside Higher Ed* website after word spread about the 25 Canadian colleges and universities who refused to participate in *Maclean's* magazine's annual university rankings issue last fall. She was one of the initial eleven Canadian university presidents to sign a joint letter to *Maclean's* on 14 August, 2006, stating they would no longer submit the questionnaire used to create the rankings due to what they saw as flawed methodology.

"[*Inside Higher Ed*] contacted us and asked if I would put something in because they'd heard that we'd been involved in that," she said. "I agreed [because], well, it's a way to share experiences and it's also a way to raise the profile of the University of Alberta."

However, Robert Morse, Director of Data Research at *US News*, said that while Canadian institutions had complaints over the manner in which *Maclean's* collected and compiled their data, those concerns don't correlate to

US News rankings.

"In my view the issue in the US and Canada is different," Morse said.

"Just to state the obvious: the US is vastly bigger than Canada," he added. "Number two, there's both public and private schools [in the US]. I'm pretty sure all the Canadian schools are public."

Morse explained that *US News* divides postsecondary institutions into separate categories such as the National Universities category, which includes institutions that provide graduate and post-graduate degrees, as well as the Liberal Arts Colleges category, which incorporate institutions where the highest degrees offered are bachelors degrees and that are for the most part privately funded.

Samarasekera said she didn't distinguish between the various ranking categories when she wrote her article, as she was mainly interested in sharing the Canadian situation. In her article she explains the entire process of first expressing concerns and later withdrawing support from the *Maclean's* rankings, and uses this as proof that universities don't have to stand by and accept ranking they disagree with.

"I didn't really get too concerned about what was going on in terms of the US other than the fact that the US universities would be interested in what we had done in Canada," she said.

PLEASE SEE **RANKINGS** ♦ PAGE 2

Cases of syphilis on the rise in Alberta

Once nearly eliminated, infection is makes a comeback in the Edmonton area

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

Syphilis has been called "the great imitator" for the tendency to mistake it as a simple skin rash, but as instances of the infection have been rising in Alberta, with over 200 recorded cases in 2006, the need to be diligent about sexual health is increasingly important.

Syphilis, a sexually transmitted or congenital infection, has been a source of concern in Canada since the 1940s and is curable with antibiotics. Dr Barbara Romanowski, a clinical professor at the University of Alberta who specializes in infectious diseases, said that the increase is a Canada-wide trend.

"The dramatic increase in cases of syphilis in Alberta is not isolated. It is reflected in other provinces,"

Romanowski said. "Sadly, syphilis is very much alive and well. It's not a disease of street people; it's not a disease of old people—it's an infection that can affect anyone who is sexually active."

"The dramatic increase in cases of syphilis in Alberta is not isolated. It is reflected in other provinces."

DR BARBARA ROMANOWSKI

According to a recent report published by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the rates of syphilis began declining in the early 1980s, and by 1997 Canada had met its goal

of near elimination, as less than 0.5 people in every 100 000 had syphilis. But from 1997–2004, the national syphilis rate increased nine times, to 3.5 for every 100 000 Canadians.

In particular, PHAC reports that significant rises in syphilis cases in Edmonton began in 2003, and each subsequent year has seen an increase. There were 106 reported cases of syphilis in Edmonton alone in 2005.

Romanowski said that despite the concentration of reported syphilis cases in Edmonton, the city isn't more susceptible to the infection than any other area.

"Is there something unique about Edmonton? I don't think so. Is it because we're closer to Fort McMurray than Calgary? I don't think so," Romanowski said.

PLEASE SEE **STI** ♦ PAGE 4

Waste-bin fire sings Rutherford

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

An unexplained fire in a garbage can outside of the Rutherford Library has left scorch marks up the side of the building and completely destroyed the stone receptacle.

"It was totally destroyed," said Al Belanger, Operations Manager for Campus Security. "It was a pretty intense fire, a pretty serious flame."

Belanger explained that Campus Security received a call at around midnight on Tuesday, 27 March from a student reporting the fire. A number of students attempted to put out the fire, by tossing gravel and water on it. The flames were under control by the time security arrived, and additional water was poured on the garbage can to make sure that the fire was out.

Belanger said that it was impossible to tell if the fire had been set intentionally or if it was an unfortunate accident.

He said that the University of Alberta generally has about one garbage can fire a month, usually due to people tossing lit cigarettes into the receptacles, where they ignite paper or other flammable materials.

"I can't say if it was purposely lit or not," Belanger said.

Campus Security isn't yet sure the cost of the damage done by the fire, which left scorch marks and soot 15 feet up the side of Rutherford. Belanger said that it could have been worse.

"Thank goodness that Rutherford is brick," he said.

Belanger said that the file was still open and that Campus Security would accept any tips that came in about the origin of the fire, but said that it's unlikely that the source will be pinned down.

"Nobody saw it actually start, so we're at kind of a dead end there," he said. "But we haven't had [any more fires] since it happened."

Inside

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Monkey migration

Aside from flinging feces, Frank Cho's monkeys are smart—so smart that they're adapting to the Internet.

A&E, PAGE 10



Simply the best

Using an intense mathematical formula, we've determined the schools that had the best CIS seasons.

SPORTS, PAGE 14

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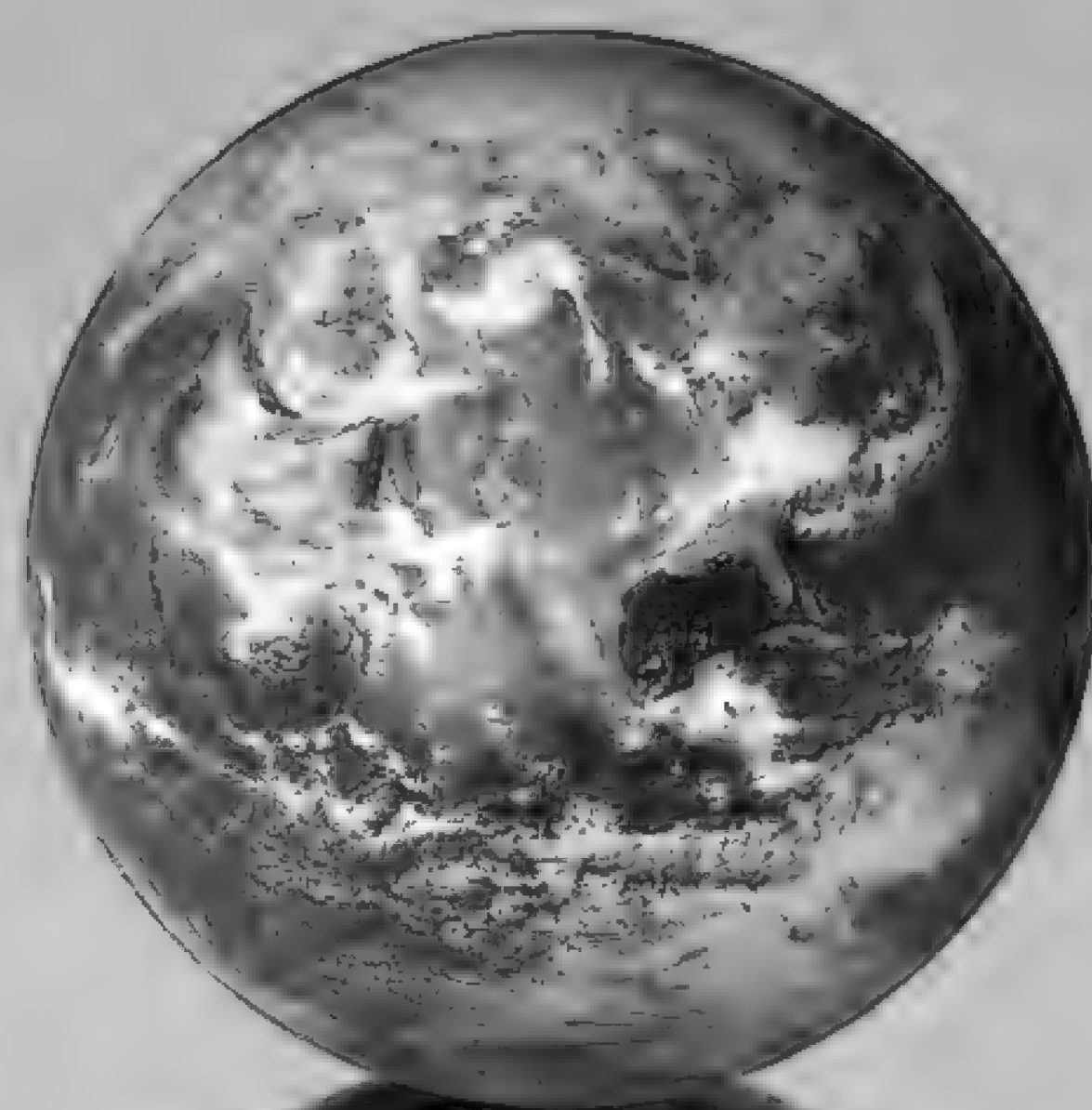
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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Jmax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is printed directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper and we owe our debt, though not in that way, to the Gateway's games of choice: Solitaire, Tetris, and Dots.

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

IT WASN'T PUMPKIN BUTTER

On 21 or 22 March, a car was damaged in the St. Joseph's College parking lot. Someone slashed a tire and smeared feces on the hood. There are no suspects, but Campus Security hopes to catch someone brown-handed.

DREAMING OF OPEN ROADS

At 8pm on 26 March, a man was seen

peeking through car windows west of Newton Place. Campus Security determined the vehicular viewer wasn't a student and had an extensive criminal record; he was warned not to return to campus.

OPERATION HANDLEGRABBERY

At high noon on 29 March, witnesses reported a man trying to open the doors of several vehicles in the Jubilee parking lot. Campus Security was unable to track down the suspect and there were no reports of thefts from vehicles. He's described as a Caucasian male in his early 20s, wearing a red ball cap and tan backpack.

I RESPECT YOUR VALID WORLD VIEW

On 29 March, Campus 5-0 arrived at the Powerplant after a disagreement between three philosopher-poets was reported. One illustrious member of the group was arrested for failing to provide his name to a peace officer and was later issued a ticket for public intoxication. Fortunately, there will be no charges under the Code of Student Behaviour.

I FOUGHT THE LAW, BUT THE LAW ABSTAINED AND TOOK ME TO JAIL

On 30 March, auxiliary officers spotted a male stumbling about near 112 Street. When approached, he immediately became uncooperative and

expressed a desire to get his fight on. After attempts to negotiate, he was arrested. The wannabe brawler had outstanding warrants and a criminal record of violence; he was handed over to Edmonton Police.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: MAY CAUSE ACCOSTING BY A STRANGER

On 31 March, a man was attacked after being asked for a cigarette near the Garneau Towers. The assailant is described as a male in his 30s with a limp, a scruffy appearance and wearing a dark jacket. The nefarious nicotine-addicted knave was last seen hobbling in the direction of campus.

Canada-US systems not comparable: Moore

RANKINGS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Morse stressed that the categories are imperative, however. According to him, the US News rankings have had “no problems from National Universities.” While certain liberal arts colleges have individually found fault with some parts of the rankings, they haven't approached US News with their concerns in an “organized way.”

One complaint against the publication came from Sarah Lawrence College President Michele Myers, who, in an op-ed for *The Washington Post*, expressed that her institution—which ranked 45th out of 215

in the US News 2007 Liberal Arts category—was unfairly disadvantaged since it no longer required SAT scores for admission to the school. Myers wrote that the magazine gave Sarah Lawrence a standard SAT deviation below the average of its peers in order to compensate.

In response, *Inside Higher Ed* stated in its 12 March article “Would US News Make Up Fake Data?” that “ten other liberal arts college presidents are preparing a letter to be sent to hundreds of college presidents proposing a new set of policies that might challenge the role of the rankings.”

Scott Hood, Vice-President (Communications & Public Affairs) at Bowdoin College—which tied for seventh out of 215 in the US News 2007 Liberal Arts category—said that so far no word had spread to his campus of this unified boycott of US News' rankings.

“To date, Bowdoin College has not been contacted by anyone at another college or university regarding the rankings,” Hood said via e-mail, pointing to an article written by the College's campus paper, the *Bowdoin Orient*, in which he's quoted as having said “rankings are a reality” and “we are a society that likes

top-10 lists.”

But U of A Students' Union Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer suggested that a more objective way of conducting postsecondary institution evaluations would be if they were done by non-profit organizations “not interested in selling copies of their edition.”

“I think a lot of students have in the past looked at rankings similar to *Maclean's* but haven't seen the big picture in terms of differing methodology and in terms of what these surveys actually take into account when ranking the institutions,” Cournoyer said.

STREETERS

Eighth grade students in Holtsville New York have been charged with serving their teacher and classmates Ex-Lax-laced doughnuts for April Fool's day.

What's the worst April Fool's day prank to which you've been party?



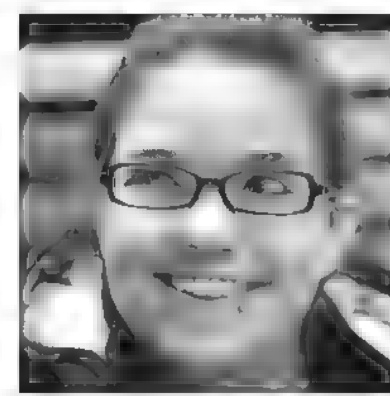
Nathan Lynch
Engineering I



Derek Berger
Open Studies



Luc Gervais
Masters Electrical
Engineering



Rachel Anderson
Arts I

I'd say putting a dry ice bomb in somebody else's locker. You get dry ice and then you put it in a water bottle, and then you put it in your friend's locker, so then it explodes and all their shirt's just blown to pieces.

Emotium and Ex-lax at the same time, because one works higher up in the digestive system than the other, so you have to take a dump but you can't. I've done this to people. It's not that hard—you can put it in a milkshake. You kind of have to do some lead-up.

Being talked into a PhD. Being convinced to move to Edmonton for a PhD.

We got tuna stuffed under our door [by] Kevin and Steve. Because we don't like the smell of tuna.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

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Hate crimes rare on campus: EPS

MARIA KOTOVYCH
News Staff

Members of the Edmonton Police Service were on campus recently to discuss the hidden impact that hate-motivated crimes have on campus and the larger Edmonton community.

“The community impact [of] it is huge,” said Sergeant Robinder Gill, of the EPS Hate and Bias Crime Unit. “There is a victimization to the entire community.”

On 21 March, Gill and Kristopher Wells, a member of the Edmonton Police Chief’s Advisory Committee and co-founder of the campus organization Inside/OUT, presented a talk entitled “Hate Crimes and Human Rights: What you Should Know and What you Can do to Create a Safer Campus Community.” Inside/OUT is a campus-based network for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) and allied students and staff.

According to Gill, the Criminal Code of Canada defines a hate crime as an offence where the person who commits a crime is motivated by hate or bias towards an identifiable group and targets an individual from that group.

The biggest difference between hate crimes and “regular” crimes, Gill said, is that hate crimes are intended

to send a message to a particular community. They may have a much larger impact on the victim and on the community as a whole and are often are under-reported.

“One of the surprising things coming into the hate crimes unit is to see how many organized movements there are within Alberta and within Canada”

SERGEANT ROBINDER GILL

For this reason, statistics don’t accurately measure hate crimes, Gill stressed.

In one set of Canadian statistics, Gill showed that ethnic/racial hate crimes were most common in Canada, followed by those targeting religion, and subsequently by those targeting sexual orientation. Gill said the black community was the group most targeted for their ethnicity, and the Jewish community was the most targeted for their religion. He also noted that more recently, when Canada saw a debate over same-sex marriage, the nation

experienced a spike in the number of hate crimes committed towards gays and lesbians.

But hate crimes on campus are minimal, according to Al Belanger at Campus Security Services.

Out of approximately 10 000 calls Campus Security received last year, only four of those were hate crimes, Belanger said. He noted that since 2003, there have been 15 incidents on campus that have been considered hate crimes, but he stressed that these statistics only consider hate crimes that have been reported. Most of the hate crimes that do happen at the U of A are vandalism-related.

“99.9 per cent of the time it is graffiti-related incidents that degrade groups and/or other individuals,” Belanger said.

Belanger also noted that no specific group has been targeted on campus recently and there also hasn’t been a repeated pattern of the same type of graffiti reoccurring.

But while hate crimes are rare on campus, there are still numerous hate groups present in Alberta and in Canada, said Gill.

“One of the surprising things coming into the hate crimes unit is to see how many organized movements there are within Alberta and within Canada,” Gill said. “That is sad to say, but there’s a fair amount.”



TAYLORMERRITT

I SEE SAW Logger Sports teaches people about the forestry industry, says Snively. But Kleercut says it’s only one view.

Green groups cut into Logger Sports

Annual event celebrates vital industry, says organizer, but others up in arms

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

For the third consecutive year, the University of Alberta Forestry Society, an organization of undergraduate and graduate students with specific interests in forestry, ran Logger Sports in Quad on 30 March. But others worry that the event may not be educating students on forestry issues.

Jeron Snively, organizer of the event, explained that Logger Sports featured things like log barrelling, axe throws, and a chainsaw demonstrations.

However, Jolene Shannon, coordinator of the environmentalist group Kleercut, said that the event doesn’t show students the big picture. She cautioned that, while students may benefit from information on the industry’s management practices received from organizations like Logger Sports, they should seek a well-rounded understanding of the environmental issues facing the industry.

“We really need to look at the information we receive from people and events like Logger Sports to make sure that we are forming our own judgments on the nature concerns.” Shannon said.

“Education on [the] management practices, [that are] facing society today is always good, it helps us form our own opinions, like whether or not our endangered foothills are worth flushing down the toilet.”

Shannon believes it’s important to celebrate traditions like Logger Sports, but students should also recognize that the industry has made some mistakes in the management of natural resources.

Snively acknowledged that some people have had problems with the industry, but he also believes the forestry industry is an essential part of our world.

“A lot of people protest and point out that cut blocks (areas of forest that are cut down) are because they don’t like to see them. [You’ve] got heavy machinery in the bush, you’re wrecking stuff and tearing everything up. But ... everybody needs wood products. Everyone uses wood products,” Snively said.

He believes that the forestry industries has listened to protests and has realized that previous practices were wrong. He said that there have now been major strides in technology and old, more harmful techniques are being replaced by ecologically friendly

methods. Snively also noted that the government has restraints that keep forestry companies in check.

“They have limitations and restrictions on what they can do and what they can’t do,” Snively said.

But Curtis Wesolowsky is convinced that these restrictions aren’t enough. A graduate in biology with a focus in conservation studies, he thinks that the government needs to do more.

“The current legislation gives the forestry corporation a large degree of powers and latitude over their forest management zones. I would like to see the legislation strengthened to ensure that in the long run, the forest industry remains as viable as possible for the province,” Wesolowsky said.

He believes that people and students need to have a general awareness of the industry because it’s so large in Alberta. He also said events like Logger Sports are useful as long as it’s more than just about recreation, and aims to educate.

“I certainly hope that it will get students involved more with the forestry industry. I also hope that students become more aware of forestry issue and have fun doing it at the same time,” Wesolowsky said.

THE LEGEND CONTINUES...

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Students prime age for infection

Increased sexual activity of university-aged people makes the group particularly prone to syphilis

STI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Romanowski said that Calgary had a significant problem with syphilis a few years ago.

"These diseases travel from place to place; there's nothing unique about Edmonton to suggest that we have more cases nor is there anything unique about Calgary that immunizes them about the cases," she said.

University students are particularly susceptible to syphilis, as individuals tend to be most sexually active during this time. The incidence of infectious syphilis is highest in women 20–24 years old, while infectious men tend to be older, between 35–39 years old. And while maintaining a healthy sex life is likely of greater concern to the average university student, sexual health is of much greater consequence and Romanowski stressed that both male and female students should protect themselves.

"Know your partner, use a condom, don't forget about other awful diseases like HIV that we can do nothing about. If you're concerned, be tested. On campus you have options, you can go to student health," she said.

Dr Gordon McInroy, University Health Centre director, said that even though syphilis is on the rise, there hasn't been an increased demand to test for the infection at the centre. Syphilis is checked with a blood test.

"It's not something that's causing any panic or people requesting the checks, but we check for it all the time," McInroy said. "What we really need to do is to get the information out, because it's not common, but it's there and we see it."

In the first stage of syphilis, the bacterium *Treponema pallidum* causes painless sores, called chancres, which can grow in the rectum or cervix, reducing notice. During the second stage, the bacteria spread to the bloodstream and cause skin rashes, frequently on the palms and soles. Syphilis is most contagious during the primary and secondary stages, and a person's chance of contracting HIV increases. Once syphilis transitions into the third stage, visible symptoms, like rashes, disappear, but internal damages to organs and the central nervous system can be fatal.

The Alberta government launched an awareness campaign in March to help stop the spread of syphilis, which has affected Albertans from 15–81 years old. Also of concern is the fact that nine babies have been born with the infection in the past two years.

Off of campus, the Sexually Transmitted Disease Centre (1111 Jasper Avenue) provides free confidential assessment, testing and counselling for sexually transmitted infections and HIV, among other services.

Debating fate of traditional tunes

Lecturer says cultural music must change in order to survive in modern age

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

Julian Kytasty, world-renowned bandura musician, argued that traditional music can continue to thrive alongside its contemporary kin—but only if it's willing to evolve.

Kytasty, who's played the stringed instrument all over the globe, was at the U of A on 26 March to discuss the obstacles faced by traditional music in a world new instruments and sounds during a lecture entitled Ukrainian Traditional Music in the 21st Century.

In particular, he said that Ukraine has suffered culturally in the last century because of famine in 1932/33 and the devastation from WWII. But Kytasty noted that the efforts of some people have kept traditional Ukrainian music alive today. He pointed to groups that travel the world to find and preserve traditional music and works. As some of these works are held only in the memories of musicians, Kytasty said that these efforts were vital to give younger generations the chance to heard traditional tunes.

Kytasty noted that not all of his work has been accepted, citing that at least one reviewer thought his work was exceptionally poor because it didn't conform to the reviewer's interpretation of traditional music. Kytasty, however, believes that music can remain traditional, while accepting that things will change over time.

"You can never predict which way a culture will move. It's the nature of culture, it evolves," Kytasty said prior to the lecture.



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

PLAY IT AGAIN, JULIAN Traditional music needs to evolve, says Kytasty.

Maria Lesiv, a University of Alberta graduate student in Ukrainian studies, agreed that something can be traditional, while still leaving room for it to grow.

"Some people—who are probably culture purists—they would say that

such aspects as globalization, development of technology and access to Western music, probably ... Influence Ukrainian traditional music negatively. But I don't think so. Even if they change [tradition], it's perfectly normal," Lesiv said.

U of A Scholarships are the solution!



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA

Undergraduate Student Awards

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions running over the summer. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.

University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition

The Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition recognizes and rewards students for superior academic achievement (minimum GPA of 3.5) on a full normal course load taken at the University of Alberta during the September to April academic year. Applicants must be returned to full-time studies in September 2007 to be eligible for these scholarships.

The Awards range in value from \$500 to \$4,000. Students can submit their applications online at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.

Deadline to apply is September 30, 2007.

Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarships

The Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship Competition was created by the Alberta Scholarship Office to recognize and reward students for their academic achievements and encourage them to continue in their undergraduate program. Approximately 250 scholarships valued at \$2,500 each are available to University of Alberta students in the top 1 to 2% of their class. **Candidates are nominated by the Student Awards Office and will be sent an application form in June.**

Applicants must be Alberta residents and plan to enroll at the University of Alberta in the second or subsequent year of a full-time program. Students who have completed a degree program and are proceeding into another undergraduate program or a professional program must apply directly to the Student Awards Office by **June 1, 2007.**

Canada Millennium National In-course Excellence Awards

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation created this scholarship program to recognize students for community service, academic achievement, leadership and innovation. These awards are available to student entering their third year of undergraduate studies in September 2007 who have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on 80% (minimum) of a full normal course load.

The University of Alberta can nominate up to 31 students. The awards range in value from \$4,000 to \$10,000. Application forms are available on the Student Awards website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards

Deadline for submission of application to the Student Awards Office is June 1, 2007

Jason Lang Scholarship

The Jason Lang Scholarships were created in honor of Jason Lang, a 17 year old Alberta high school student who was killed in a school shooting. These \$1,000 scholarships are designed to reward the outstanding academic achievement of Alberta postsecondary students who are continuing into their second, third, or fourth year of studies.

Applicants must be Alberta residents who have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.2 on 24 units of course weight in their previous year of studies (September to April). Students can submit their applications on-line at www.registrar.ualberta.ca

Students can submit their applications online at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards. **The deadline to apply is September 15, 2007.**



JUNETTE HUYNH

SILLY RABBIT, BITS ARE FOR KIDS Small changes, such as a larger fonts, may make it easier for old people to compute.

New tech confuses old users: study

Industry expert says that simple tweaks could make computers easier to use

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

A study done at the University of Alberta found that older adults feel less confident about their computer knowledge than their younger counterparts. Older adults worry about how age-related factors, such as memory, may inhibit their performance and as a result lowers their confidence.

Dr Dennis Foth of the Faculty of Extension along with Dr Patricia Boechler and Dr Rebecca Watchorn, both from the Department of Psychology, studied computer use and proficiency in a group of approximately 40 adults, aged 50 and older. The results of the subjects, who were all members of the Edmonton Lifelong Learners' Association (ELLA), were measured against the results of undergraduates students.

The research found that problems associated with old age, such as Parkinson's disease and other cognitive defects, would affect older adult's confidence and ability to use

computers, Boechler said. She suggested that one solution for the loss in confidence would be for different younger people to tutor the elderly in using computers and help build on their knowledge.

"If we could provide classes through community centres, through senior associations and organizations, seniors who are open-minded about having technology in their lives would feel more comfortable about taking part in that," Boechler stated.

The study had other recommendations on assisting seniors in learning computers, such as increasing font sizes, ensure computer mouse are easy to manipulate and to give simple and direct instructions that give no room for multiple interpretations.

However, Nathan Palovick, a freelance computer consultant who has worked with several elderly people, believes that there's more the industry can do to accommodate older adults.

While Palovick acknowledges that part of the problem is that computers are constantly changing because of the nature of the field, he also believes

that if software companies were to establish standards that all programs would follow, older people would have a much easier time adapting to computers.

For example, he said that if the process of turning off a computer was the same for all operating systems, elderly people wouldn't have to learn a slightly different method for every new system. "Once you are familiar with ... the principles of [the software], it is a lot easier to understand how those changes go out from there. Because really, fundamentally, Windows or Macintosh hasn't changed all that much in the past 20 years," Palovick said.

He did note that several systems actually do have ways of maintaining the same interface (the way people interact with a computer), but people are either unaware of these options or don't know how to access them.

These are really simple [techniques], but for somebody who isn't really familiar with the technology ... they aren't going to be able to find it," Palovick said.

NEWS BRIEF

Written by Anna Johnson

DANCE CLUB STILL WALTZING AT 50

As the baion—a slow Brazilian samba rhythm—surged in popularity in the '50s, so did dance at the University of Alberta. However, while the samba beat may be lost to today's students, dance is still going strong.

In the fall of 1957, a group of around 20 students approached a local dance studio in hopes of setting up an informal gathering for those that wanted to learn how to ballroom dance. The following year, the Students' Union made the club an official student group. This year, the Dance Club celebrated its 50th year at the U of A.

"It's incredible to have such a wonderful group of people together with one common goal. It's ballroom dancing. It's actually quite a beautiful thing to be a part of," said Darren Yesmaniski, Vice-President (Internal) of the Dance Club.

According to Yesmaniski, the club's annual membership of 100 includes students, alumni and community members. To celebrate half a century of dance instruction, the club held a number of events over the 31 March weekend to give club members, old and new, an occasion to show off their farandoles, flamencos and fox-trots, as well as to thank volunteers who made it possible. Everyone from the nine executive members to D.s, to the dance



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

DOING THE LATEST RAG The U of A Dance Club celebrates its big fiftieth.

instructors themselves are involved on a volunteer basis.

Laurier and Margot Byer, former members of the club, both attended the event to reconnect with long-lost acquaintances.

The Byers were members 18 years ago, while they were dating, and just rejoined the club this year.

"What's really nice about the socials is you don't feel threatened if you're a beginner. There are people of all abilities."

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The Gateway is looking for a Sports Editor

The **Sports Editor's*** term runs from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Additionally, six issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. The Sports Editor is expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In the full-time months, the position's salary is \$1281.88 per month.



The Gateway is also looking for a few part-time employees

- The **Online Coordinator*** will be responsible for keeping the Gateway's new website slick, sexy and not libellous. Hours are flexible, but free Monday and Wednesday nights are a must. Remittance is \$419.60 per month.
- Two **Circulation PALs*** will deliver the Gateway to campus and beyond. Free Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons are a must as is a driver's licence and clean driver's abstract. Remittance is \$329.96 per month.

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* For information and rundown of the complete job descriptions (subject to change) e-mail eic@gateway.ualberta.ca

Additionally ...

The Gateway is holding a special general meeting to choose its two (2) 2007/08 volunteer-staff board of directors representatives

The SGM will take place on Thursday, 12 April at 4pm. All volunteer staff are asked to attend if possible.

If you're interested in running, you must have had five (5) contributions to the Gateway in the last year and have opted-in as a staff member to Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner. You can opt-in at any point before the meeting.

THE GATEWAY

Old age ought to be (gently) embraced

GENERALLY, WHEN I THINK OF THE FUTURE, I think in terms of the next five years—or at the very most, the next ten. However, the recent aging symposium, held this weekend at the U of A hospital, tried to get people pondering life a little further down the line—and then a little further still.

But after listening to Dr Daniel Callahan, international program director of The Hastings Center (a bioethics think-tank), I for one am not convinced that money spent on longevity research couldn't be better spent elsewhere. After all, there are very few compelling reasons for extending life spans, and a multitude of negative repercussions if we do.

Suppose these technologies were developed, Callahan asks: who would have access to them? Only the wealthy? And what would the effects be of having people live longer on our already overpopulated planet? Why should we be seeking to lengthen our lives at all?

The cost of developing new technologies is huge—and there are plenty of diseases that could use a cure before aging. Cancer, AIDS and multiple sclerosis come to mind, just to name a few. Enhancing our *quality of life*—that is, making the time we have better rather than longer—makes so much more sense. In fact, I find it difficult to call aging a disease at all. After all, it's a natural process to which we are all subjected.

The University recently ended its policy of mandating retirement at the age of 65. In light of possible developments in anti-aging technology, one wonders whether the average retirement age won't be pushed back further yet. Given improved health, we can even expect to continue working well into our 70s. Although some people do already and are happy for it, I would be disappointed not to have the choice, the same way I would be upset if I were forced to quit just because I had gone past my statistical prime.

All things considered, the prospect of extending my life an extra ten years or so isn't really appealing—not necessarily for personal reasons, but for the impact that it would have on those around me. Who would be expected to take care of me for another decade? Even if I am lucky enough to be in good health, I would still need support and assistance. And if I weren't in a situation where I have family around, this could get very pricy. In fact, this effect is already evident today, as many long-term care facilities are being privatized and charging huge sums for often questionable care. That is, there simply aren't enough beds or health-care professionals to meet the demand. Already, we can hardly accommodate the aging population—and this is just the beginning of the boom.

When I picture myself 40 years from now, I don't see a woman giving up on life or thinking that it's over at 60; rather, I see someone who's still pleased with her accomplishments in youth and eager to experience a new age. Growing older is a beautiful process that allows us to change and develop. It's this graceful process of aging that we should focus on instead of just worrying about when our time is up.

When it comes to choosing between living an extra few years or having a healthier and happier life, I wouldn't hesitate in choosing the latter. But it's easy to say now that I don't want ten more years. In the face of old age, perhaps I'll change my mind. Maybe my age is getting the best of me already—I am a ripe old 22 after all.

KRYSTINA SULATYCKI
Photo editor

Fly away already

SO NELLY FURTADO HOSTS THE JUNOS AND PICKS up three awards at the same time. How exactly does that work? And the winner is ... me?

I know she touts herself as a "Promiscuous Girl," but at this point "attention whore" might seem like a more apt descriptor. First the Grey Cup, and now this. What B-List Canadian spectacle will Furtado ruin next?

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion editor

LETTERS

Three Rs not enough, Malcolm

I would like to say that I appreciate the current social issue that was brought up in the article "Unnecessary Course 101" (27 March). Miss Malcolm indirectly addressed the disconcerting reality that our society is lacking environmental awareness, misunderstanding the practices of sustainability and overall rests far too comfortably with an apathetic view of the world.

If we were actually an environmentally conscious generation then we would see that environmental friendliness is greater than the concept of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." The current environmental issues that are under thorough discussion, and would likely be the basis of a class called Environmental Sustainability 101, are not small-scale concerns. They are issues being faced globally and they require solutions that are not so simplified. Quick-fix environmental Band-Aids make people feel like they are making a difference when in fact they do not entirely understand the problem.

It appears as if the uprising discussions about environmental sustainability are not of value to enough people. I am very pleased, however, to hear that our President of the University, Dr Indra Samarasekera, has addressed the hot topic of sustainability as a real issue. I believe that the implementation of a mandatory sustainability course is a beginning to a long road of solutions. People must be made aware of the extent of environmental issues to fully understand why they are being told to follow the principles of sustainability. Without a background of knowledge and understanding for sustainability, today's industrial society cannot be expected to rapidly convert from money-making to resource-conserving as its priority.

The University has the responsibility as a secondary-education provider to liberate well-rounded, well-informed individuals into society. The purpose of a first-year course is to provide a foundation for students to succeed in their future courses.

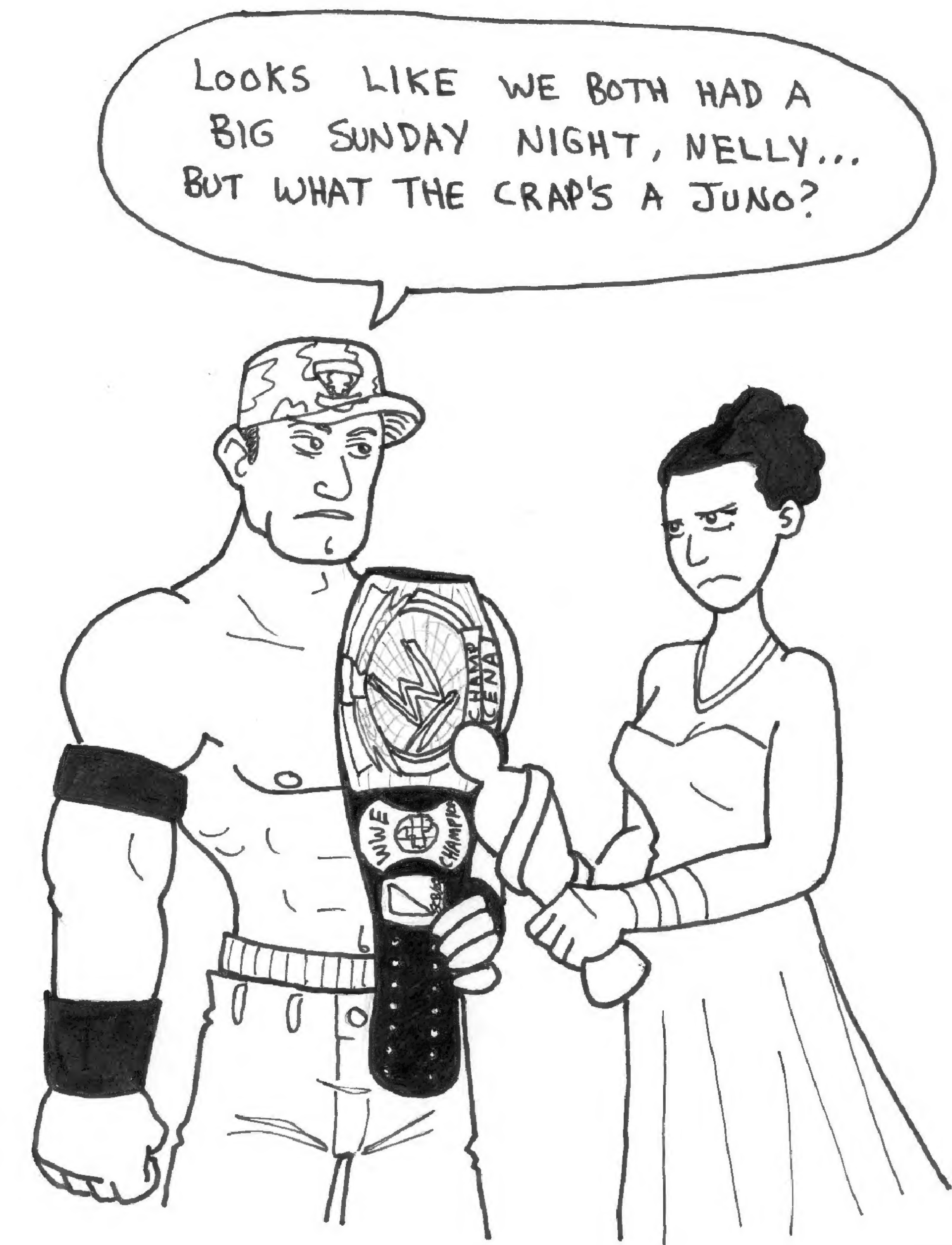
The purpose of Environmental Sustainability 101 would not be a tree-hugging hippie class, as this is not the point of sustainability. Rather, the main objective would be the preparation for students, further down the road, as future resource managers and concerned, knowledgeable world leaders.

SALLY ELLS
Science III

Not everyone is an environmentalist

I do agree that university students should not be forced to take courses on environmental sustainability but I find it pretty arrogant of Miss Malcolm to think that this generation has all the moral conscience it needs to make changes in the future. Call me pessimistic but I do not think that all members of this generation will "... work to compensate for prior abuses when it's our turn to take over in important leadership roles."

Does Miss Malcolm talk to some



SCOTT C BOURGEOIS

of the engineers? Yes, some truly care about the environment but watch as others start working for huge oil companies and money starts to talk. I think our generation likes to put up a false front. We buy into this idea that we change the world and that's all it becomes: an idea. We can talk a lot about solutions but in the future will we be that different from past generations? Engineers are given a bad rap, but it's not just them: most people you talk to will say they care about the environment, but how many actually make substantial changes in their lifestyle or are willing to pay more or vote accordingly?

I would also like to question what she thinks is "needlessly wasteful" or "unnecessarily careless," because in ignorance she may be in fact doing such things. If we, as university students, already know all we need to know about the environment, why, after three years of learning about it, am I still continually embarrassed by my ignorance? And even if we possess the knowledge, many of us do not seem to use it. I have a roommate who recycles basically because she lives with me and I threaten her with torture and death, and a brother who thinks the extent of the anthropogenic impact to climate change is debatable and that changes that could occur in future centuries are not worth the time and effort (not to mention the money) trying to understand because hey, it won't happen in our lifetime so why worry. As for the rest of my peers I find us just as lazy as other demographics in making changes in our lifestyles to decrease our impact.

So while the majority of lectures and courses on the environment are "preaching to the sustainable

choir"—or as my brother would say a bunch of hippies doing nothing but talking and eating granola—I do not "sigh and feel slightly annoyed"; instead I try to understand the environment we are all a part of and try to come up with ways to convince even the most apathetic that it is worth the time, energy and money. And as Miss Malcolm proved it is a daunting task indeed.

APRIL ZEMBAL
Science III

Some students still need to clean up their act

There is nothing more frustrating than hearing someone say [that] they already know everything so they shouldn't bother learning more about one of the biggest issues in the world. Did you know, "Canada is one of the worst environmental performers in the industrialized world and has shown no improvement over the past decade"? A study performed at Simon Fraser University placed Canada 28 out of 30 industrialized nations. If we are all behind a cleaner, better planet, why is it that every time I look in the garbage I see pop cans and every time I look in the paper recycling bin I see garbage? Why are the tar sands increasing production five-fold in the next 13 years?

The idea that we have all learned in-depth about this issue from birth is ignorant. About 15 per cent of the student body is international students from varying backgrounds. Many leave Canada when they finish their programs and may become very involved in their own countries. Wouldn't it be great if they brought back ideas that prevented them from

making the same mistakes we have?

University is all about unnecessary courses—that's the difference between university and college. Taking courses on topics other than your major is what makes university interesting. It's like the difference between a Ford Escort and a Rolls Royce, the extra things are what make it special. Looking back, first year didn't have so much work that an extra hour a week for a single semester would have been the straw that broke our backs. I'm not saying the class should be three hours per week with a three-hour lab and a two-hour final, but I think we all could spare an hour a week for the sake of improving the future of our country.

"The Canada we see in this report does not reflect the one we hold in our hearts," says Dr Suzuki. Either we know the problem but we're too stupid to do anything about it or we don't know enough and that's why we aren't doing anything. I hope it's the latter.

BEN CAMPBELL
Engineering III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student ID number to be considered for publication.

Metro a rather pedestrian effort

This latest commuter rag only adds to Edmonton's glutted newsprint market



MATT
FREHNER

With the inaugural issue of *Metro* hitting the stands yesterday, yet another commuter rag has entered the already-saturated Edmonton market, competing for sidewalk space with CanWest's *RushHour* and Sun Media's *24 Hours*. The proliferation of newspaper boxes around campus over the last few months is so cancerous that the east LRT entrance has become completely enveloped: no less than ten newspapers are stationed there, along with a giant ugly black box that seems to be advertising something about condominiums. Among those personally insulted by the newspaper shit-storm are Mother Earth, City Councillor Michael Phair and defenders of good taste and decency. Phair called it a "cluster of ugliness" in last Friday's *Edmonton Journal*, and is working to castrate the newspaper giants before we find ourselves swimming in a pulpy mush of cookie-cutter journalism. But masses of paper litter aside, the way print media is delivered currently isn't very appealing to younger readers. Bill McDonald, *Metro's* English-Canada publisher, has noted as much. The truth

is, daily newspaper readership is down pretty much across the board. Those who read the newspaper on a daily basis are slowly dying off, and the rest don't care. Money is being lost both in subscription and ad revenue. But the free daily format doesn't fix the problems inherent in print media. A buck for a newspaper isn't all that prohibitive, nor is its size. What does make traditional daily newspapers worthless, if I can summarily pigeonhole my entire generation, is that anyone who gives a shit about the news will soon be reading it online (if they don't already), where it's faster, cheaper, timelier and more diverse than anything that can be found in print. As far as it's possible to remain relevant in a world of instantly accessible media, 300-word mini-stories isn't the way to do it. Battling the Internet with a couple hundred thousand 16-page pamphlets will be about as successful as trying to end terrorism by bombing a bunch of random Middle Eastern countries: the optics might be good in the short term, but in the long run you'll be facing huge deficits and a Democratic rebellion in Congress. To the extent that these dailies are successful in large cities, it's because they're free and easily available: the boxes sit on every street corner and transit hub. Simply put, they're read because they're there, and because flipping through a couple of pages of trash is slightly more exciting than scratching one's private parts.

But this business model relies on people *actually using public transit* to a fairly large extent, and with Edmonton's weekday LRT ridership at just 46 000 "boardings" per day, it's difficult to fathom how a combined 115 000 free newspapers are going to get read. But economically, it doesn't matter whether the content is worth reading or not. If *Metro* says it's printing 60 000 copies a day, that's all the advertisers care about, regardless of whether the paper is more than 50 per cent ad content—and more than 75 per cent verifiable trash, if you include all the celebrity gossip. The cash grabs have already started, as *24 Hours* followed in *Dose's* footsteps by making an advertisement of their entire front page. And we saw how sabotaging any shred of journalistic integrity worked for *Dose*. Where *Metro* rises slightly above the pack is in its local content, which is at least written by local staff members rather than pulled prepackaged off of a wire service. Hopefully *Metro* can find space to inject some creativity in this case. Just one month in, however, all three commuter rags look like lifeless pain-by-numbers digest versions of already-ailing publications. The real problem with these free dailies is that there's no vision beyond attempting to make as much money as possible. But if profit margin is what they're after, I know of some pretty solid e-mail scams. Leave the newspaper-making to those of us whose souls aren't quite so hardened.

Intellectual laziness is rampant, probably

The Information Age is turning us into less capable students than ever



JACALYN
AMBLER

On a freezing day sometime last winter, one of my professors made an announcement, that provoked an outburst so furious, the energy from it is probably still hanging, suspended, over campus to this day. There would be *no* Internet sources, he said, accepted for our term papers, including any peer-edited material found online; only hard copy would be accepted as suitably academic. Incredulity permeated the room: how were we supposed to write a paper—a whole paper—without using the Internet? Surely there was some kind of faculty rule against this. Although some of us may have harboured a vague notion that the articles we had cited for years inhabited some physical location deep in the bowels of Rutherford North, few had the where-withal or the desire to find it. After all, our generation doesn't resort to microfilm and dusty tomes for knowledge. We Google it. As academia, and the Western world in general, fully enters the era of extreme information exposure, this scene will likely become only more common, as generations of old-school professors come head to head with students whose WPM typing speeds are faster than their average speed of thought. With the benefits of this information age both obvious and immutable, those who hold out for the power of the actual written word are dismissed as Luddites.

The Internet and its assorted paraphernalia are, after all, totally based on knowledge exchange: forums, blogs, article databases, online newspapers—all are revised hourly and all give the public instantaneous access to a virtually infinite and ever-expanding supply of knowledge. So what's my problem with this type of learning then? Why am I writing this article when I should be scouring JSTOR for some new sources to use in my latest research paper? Well, lately, I've been wondering: no matter how big the benefits, if it's always true that a new invention replaces an old one, and that therefore every innovation must carry some drawback, what, if anything, are we losing from good, old-fashioned book-learning? **As the process is repeated, students risk believing that they have become well-read, while in fact they're only well-argued.** Consider the context in which most of us do research. Most of our classes, no matter what faculty, have some kind of opinion-formation as their goal; classes are intended to provide an overview, while the real, in-depth knowledge is expected to come from assignments and research papers. Implanted in the research process is an expectation that students will invariably expose themselves to the different predominant opinions on the selected issue. And largely, if the dusty-tome process is your chosen one, then this is something you can't avoid—long hours of skimming indexes and

articles even slightly related to your topic basically ensures it. Most students (at least, the ones I know), abandon this technique as soon as possible for one that involves more ease, comfort and flexibility: namely, making use of online databases, which are acquiring astonishingly refined search capacities. But this development means that students now have the option of basically depositing a thesis into the subject heading on the screen, reading whatever is cranked out, and assuming this is to be a definitive exploration of said thesis, even if major sides or pieces of the argument surrounding it have been omitted. If you're looking for a particular opinion, in other words, you're going to find it, however extreme. But that doesn't make it definitive. As the process is repeated, students risk believing that they have become well-read, while in fact they're only well-argued, having lost the opportunity of exposure not only to the other discussion surrounding their chosen subjects, but also to the kind of serendipitous knowledge—hallmark of the truly well read person—that can only be acquired by accident. It's not my suggestion that we turn back the clock, shut down the supercomputers, or make Dusty Tome Navigation 101 a required course. I just believe that we need to recognize that these systems are more fragile and less organic than most of us would like to believe. The world of computers, however, shiny and durable it may appear, remains a world completely apart from tangible, physical reality. If it should suddenly disappear—and our ability to think along with it—then just how advanced will we have become?

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See this ice cream cone?

It represents the Gateway's 2006/07 publishing schedule: all but melted away, with only a bit of milky stuff oozing out the side.

Luckily, we'll be publishing again summer, so if you like ice cream—and writing—then you should volunteer for the *Gateway*. It's way more fun than spending time outdoors.

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Students' futures uncertain as Québec gov't enters new era

NICK
TAYLOR-VAISEY



The Fulcrum

OTTAWA (CUP)—The last time Quebecers elected a minority government was in 1878—and the education system in the province was vastly different than today. The government was nearly a century away from creating the *Université du Québec* network, and McGill University had barely topped an enrolment of 1000.

Times have clearly changed. During the Quiet Revolution in the 1960s, the political landscape exploded, and young Quebecers benefited greatly. McGill now hosts over 33 000 students, there are over a dozen universities in Québec, and after a Parti Québécois (PQ) election win in 1994, tuition fees were frozen, making them the lowest in Canada.

Enter the 2007 provincial election, which brought forward a Liberal minority government. The reigning Grits under Jean Charest promised that, if elected, they would increase tuition fees by \$50 a year until 2012. In their platform, the party stated the 14-year-old freeze “interferes with recruiting and retaining the best professors and researchers, and

“The three major parties in the province—the Liberals, the PQ, and ADQ (Action Démocratique du Québec)—have come to expect that in Québec politics, there are winners and losers. And until last week, Charest and PQ leader André Boisclair each expected to win in a landslide.”

handicaps the competitive development of research infrastructure.”

Charest says that Québec residents pay, on average, over \$3000 less than the rest of Canadian students, and his planned increases won't interfere with Québec's claim to the lowest tuition fees in North America. On election night, the Liberals barely won, with 48 of 125 seats.

But that doesn't mean tuition fees will increase, or even that they will stay the same. The three major parties in the province—the Liberals, the PQ, and ADQ (Action Démocratique du Québec)—have come to expect that in Québec politics, there are winners and losers. And until last week, Charest and PQ leader André Boisclair each expected to win in a landslide.

Confronted by the prospect of a minority government, they pleaded with Quebecers to elect a majority. It would be easier when dealing with the federal government, they said. More likely, the leaders simply didn't want to work with the opposition in an environment quite similar to that of the federal government. Given that

the Liberals hold such a slim lead in the National Assembly, the two opposition caucuses will no doubt mount enormous opposition to a number of Liberal plans, including increased tuition fees.

Pundits claim the results of the 26 March election affirm the importance of “the issues” to Quebecers—those social issues that have made Québec famous for its left-leaning tendencies. It was a departure from the recent trend toward a sovereignist-federalist divide in the province. Now that every issue has the power to destabilize the fragile legislature in Québec City, parties will likely scramble to gain traction on the issues Quebecers deem most important.

In such a climate, will postsecondary education remain on the politicians' radar? Will prominent student groups keep their issues on the agenda? If the recent federal minority governments provide any insight, then the fewer priorities a leader adopts, the longer their party retains power. The lineups outside the National Assembly are already forming.

Pop culture and lit-crit just don't mix

Literary theory is important—just don't beat it to death with modern texts

MONA
STRUTHERS



The Phoenix

KELOWNA, BC (CUP)—As an English student with a focus on the contemporary, I've always looked to pop culture classes as easy credits. There are a number of reasons for this: I feel like I might recognize the texts studied in pop classes; I'd rather study Toni Morrison and Timothy Findley than William Shakespeare; I can relate to modern characters and grasp thematic concepts more quickly. Perhaps most importantly, I enjoy reading about familiar places and things, and then connecting those places and things to Kevin Bacon—and eventually, to myself.

Unfortunately, pop-culture study has a dark side: it can be downright excruciating. This happens when cultural texts are hammered into frames for literary, psychological or sociological theories that they just don't fit into. Suddenly a film's *mise en scène*, a novel's mention of the colour red or a musical track's white space cease to exist as an independent act of creative expression and instead becomes an expression of cultural theory.

Don't get me wrong: interpreting text using the work of theorists like Michel Foucault or Jacques Lacan is neat-o. When a professor actually takes the time to explain Lacan's ideas about lack, I felt really excited, suddenly exposed to a new perspective that I can apply to things. But, more often than not, there isn't time for explanation—

only to summarize books of innovative thought into three or four fatally reductive bullets on an overhead or handout. It's in these cases that I feel frustrated, because I'm being taught a *Literary Theory for Dummies* version instead.

All or nothing at all—that's what I want. When a class on culture consists of little more than using bits of theory, I get the feeling that the professor is still trying to convince him- or herself that pop culture deserves to be studied in the first place.

More often than not, there isn't time for explanation—only to summarize books of innovative thought into three or four fatally reductive bullets on an overhead or handout.

The problem is that many theories merit entire courses and cannot be crammed into the spaces between novels, film or poetry in an English class. Many professors only have time to present a vague, paint-by-numbers summary of one topic, one idea, out of context.

For people like me, who are actually interested in learning more about these theorists, these incomplete forays into lit-crit theory are irritating because they're too specific and reductive to be useful outside of the course. For example, I would have gladly spent a semester studying the work of

Lacan, Derrida, Butler, Sartre, Deleuze, Haraway, Levinas—I like theory, okay? But lately I feel like I'll only ever learn it with any comprehension on my own, outside of university.

As a solution to my complaint, I'd love to see more pop-culture profs with enough confidence in the texts they teach to move forward without depending on theoretical crutches that are too often contrived and little more than tenuous. I'd rather see a more basic treatment of pop culture texts—a more near-sighted approach, and one that gives creative power to the author, rather than writing off the artist's work as little more than flesh on the bones of intellectual theory.

Classes should also be described more precisely so that students can make better choices before they register. For example, I wouldn't take a class called “A Lacanian analysis of Rave,” but I might sign up for “Levinas and 21st-century desire.”

The near-sighted method I'm advocating is pretty much the historicist approach. I'm not sure why historical context has become so secondary in some courses: the knowledge I take from pop culture is largely composed of specific information I've learned about particular artists. Facts about production, the strange habits of writers, influences, sources of inspiration, causes of death, the budget of a film and its subsequent success/failure—and not paradigms of analysis.

What it all comes down to is: if I want to understand a theorist I will find their work and read it. But if I want to learn about 20th- or 21st-century literature and Derrida shows up more than Joyce, there had better be a damned good reason.

Scientologists are the sane ones



KELSEY
TANASIUK

In our modern, civilized and politically correct world, discrimination on the basis of religion is frowned upon, to say the least. In fact, voicing prejudicial thoughts tends to give you an imaginary stamp on your forehead that reads “total prick.” But all rules have exceptions, and there’s one religion that remains fair game for discrimination and ridicule. I’m talking about comedy’s perpetual whipping boy, Scientology.

Just try starting a group conversation about Scientology. But be warned: you will hear phrases such as “Ohmygoditssuchascam” and “OhmygodTomCruise” repeated with nauseating regularity. If you happen to find yourself in exceptionally learned company (ie someone who’s read the Wikipedia article on it), that person may mention Scientology’s sci-fi novelist creator, L Ron Hubbard. Perhaps the tabloid reader of your group will bring up Katie Holmes or coo about how adorable Suri Cruise is, but other than that you should find your conversation will go in circles for an indefinite period of time.

I think we can safely say that the average person on this campus knows shit-all about a controversial religion that they all love to gossip about. If this were the case with any other religion, you can bet there would be something of an uproar, and multiple student

groups would likely form. However, scientologists seems to be fairly quiet about their faith—could it be they’ve decided to take the moral high road so many religions preach about? Already then, it would seem, they’re actually *better* at being religious than the rest of us. Could this be a religion that attempts to actually practice what it preaches?

To answer that question, we must first understand what exactly Scientology does preach. Because in all seriousness, if one is going to talk about as touchy and personal a subject as religion, it’s best to be educated on the matter. So let’s talk about the *actual* teachings of Scientology, and not just the Comedy Network fodder.

Could this be a religion that attempts to actually practice what it preaches?

Scientology preaches about knowledge and understanding. One of the first things you are told when you start to read about it is, don’t pass by something you don’t understand. Learn what it is and understand it before continuing on your way. If you’re reading a book and spy a word you’ve never seen, find out what it means before you keep reading. That way you’ll completely understand its implications in the sentence. Already it seems we can learn something from our friends the Scientologists: understanding things before we talk about them. What a revolutionary concept.

Scientologists say there are three things you have to attend to in your

life and in this order: Being, Doing and Having. Being is your person—your soul, really. The first thing you need to do is determine who you are: Being is being aware and knowledgeable about yourself and your surroundings. Doing is your actions: once you have yourself under control you have to look at your actions and how they’re affecting the world around you. Finally there’s Having: that’s where you get to look at your material possessions and their place in this world. Know about your surroundings before you do anything to affect the world? You guys are probably right, these people are crazy.


One of the major criticisms of Scientology is that there are mandatory fees for members of the church. It’s clearly a scam since you have to pay to get in, right? But let’s not forget that organized religions need funds to keep their churches afloat—they just rely on donations. Scientologists are no different: they just happen to be straightforward about their financial needs. I’d prefer that over the guilt-inducing glares of senior citizens when the donation basket is passed around.

So let’s take stock: be knowledgeable, know yourself, know the consequences of your actions and put your mental self before your material one. Lessons we should all take to heart. The bottom line is, if a religion is working to help people better themselves the rest of us are in no place to judge it, regardless of what crazy celebrities happen to follow it. L Ron Hubbard calls Scientology a battle against idiocy. So congratulations to all those of you who just love to talk about this scam religion: you guys get to be the opposing army.



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REACH FOR IT Scientologists hold themselves to lofty standards—do you?



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Complimentary pizza will be available just show your valid student ONEcard.

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